

Manor under fire after warning of 'abnormal trend'

DEATH REVIEWS

'TAKE TOO LONG'

Report by Richard Guttridge

DEATHS at Walsall Manor Hospital are not being investigated quickly enough, health bosses have been told.

A new report said the trust that runs the hospital had struggled to carry out reviews into deaths on time.

Experts from Imperial College London also warned there was an 'abnormal trend of deaths' linked to fluid and electrolyte imbalance, which is most commonly found in people with alcohol problems.

A trust report said 'timely reviews of deaths had been a concern' at the hospital. Hospital bosses have queried the report and asked for 'clarity' about where they need to improve.

This comes after it was revealed in July that 10 per cent more patients died at Walsall Manor than expected last year.

The Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust report said: "The trust has received notification from Imperial College London, advising of an abnormal trend of deaths coded as fluid and electrolyte imbalance. The trust has completed a review, which included patient care and the feedback had been supplied to the college.

Mandatory

"Timely reviews of deaths have been of concern due to availability to conduct the reviews and provide feedback. Medical examiners will be mandatory from next year and the trust needs to make investment." However, chair of the board Danielle Oum said the trust needed more detail about the concerns raised. Non-executive director John Dunn has called for a clear plan to set out 'key milestones'.

She told fellow board members the report was 'overlong and insufficiently focused so that it did not support board assurance' and added there was 'a need to be clear on the areas to be improved upon and requested clarity on how soon a succinct set of recommendations would be presented'.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird admitted the warnings were a concern and said: "As a local hospital we like to see people coming out having recovered. If there are concerns they need to be investigated thoroughly. We are seeing pressures on the health service, more and more people are living longer and going to hospital."

GOODNESS GRACIOUS! MEERA'S HOOKED ON PANTO



Jimmy Osmond as Captain Hook and Meera Syal as the Magical Mermaid, ready to star in Peter Pan at Birmingham Hippodrome

A SWASHBUCKLING production of Peter Pan, starring Queen Mary's High School ex-pupil Meera Syal, will be dazzling the theatre-goers in Birmingham.

The comedian, actor and writer is part of an all-star cast in this year's panto at Birmingham Hippodrome, starting on December 19. The Goodness Gracious Me star went to school in Walsall while she was growing up in Essington.

Returning favourite Matt Slack will also feature with boyband star Jaymi Hensley, from Union J, and Jimmy Osmond.

Rehearsals started this week and producers promised the UK's biggest and best pantomime. Matt Slack, who is enjoying a run of six successive pantomimes in Birmingham, said he couldn't wait to get started.

Jimmy Osmond said it was a dream job to land a role in the Hippodrome pantomime because it was the biggest in the UK.

He added: "I've done eight pantomimes and this will be the biggest.

"The producers contacted me, rather than me chasing it, which is great. I have to say, I'm delighted to be back in Birmingham. I

always enjoy a very warm reception when I come here. I've had some great times in the city over the years, playing concerts and appearing at the Hippodrome in Chicago and Grease. So it's wonderful to be back. It feels like home."

X Factor star Jaymi Hensley said he'd be working with Union J until the curtain went up on the pantomime before returning to the band afterwards for a busy spring.

He said: "It's a cast of real A-listers with Matt and Meera and Jimmy and I can't wait to get the show started."

DEVELOPMENT

Ex-car dealership site boost for town

WALSALL town centre is due to undergo a multi-million pound regeneration as ambitious plans to transform key sites near the Waterfront and railway station were revealed.

A potential bidder has come forward for the former Lex car dealership site near the Waterfront, which could provide a breakthrough for a long-awaited development.

Council bosses are also keen to develop Station Street to boost connections between the station and Waterfront.

Direct train services from Walsall to London are to be started over the coming years and officials want to make the area around the station more attractive to shoppers and businesses.

A crucial £150,000 worth of funding has been provided to kick-start work at Lex and has allowed remediation work at the site to start. The authority says it is in talks with a potential buyer, which is eyeing the site for a possible retail and offices development.

A report from the council's regeneration boss Adrian Andrew said: "Waterfront, the former Lex site, has benefited from Local Growth funding with £150,000 of site remediation works having recently been completed. Interest in the land has been expressed and the council is looking to transact its land interest to support proposals of a new commercial development. I hope to be able to announce more on this later this year."

HEALTH

Shaping maternity services of future

FAMILIES will get the chance to have their say on maternity services in the region during a special meeting, next Wednesday, from 10am to 2pm at the Holiday Inn at Junction 10 of the M6, in Walsall.

Over the last year, NHS organisations in Dudley, Sandwell and West Birmingham, Walsall and Wolverhampton held four listening workshops to talk to more than 200 women and families about their experiences of using maternity services.

Sally Roberts, chief nurse for the Black Country and West Birmingham Local Maternity System, said: "The insight we gained has been invaluable in helping to shape and develop a future maternity service."

INSIDE

KEY TO TOWN'S HISTORIC PAST



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Chiefs in plastic-free push on stores

SUPERMARKETS in Walsall will be pressured to introduce 'plastic-free aisles' under radical plans by the borough council.

Bosses are desperate to reduce the amount of plastic waste, with the supermarket giants in their sights. Homes and businesses across Walsall will be encouraged to cut the amount of plastic being thrown away.

A new council report said supermarkets would be asked to do their bit by considering bringing in plastic-free aisles. The big supermarket chains, such as Tesco and Sains-

bury's, will be targeted, the council said.

The report said councillors planned 'to use the links we have with businesses in Walsall to encourage them to reduce the amount of plastic waste produced and specifically to write to each of our major supermarkets asking them to consider introducing a 'plastic-free aisle' in their Walsall stores on a trial basis.'

In 2017/18 Walsall disposed of an estimated 120,000 tonnes of waste at a cost of £5.1 million. Now councillors plan to improve on this figure

with the introduction of a series of planned new measures.

It is the latest stage of the council's crackdown on fly-tipping and littering, which will include putting skips on street corners.

Walsall's environment boss Mark Holden said: "Three hundred million tonnes of new plastic is made each year, half of which is for single-use plastic such as packaging and convenience foods. In many cases, such as plastic straws, takeaway food containers and coffee cups, there are practical alternatives available.

"It is estimated that by weight, there could be more plastic in our oceans than fish as soon as 2050. As plastics are durable and strong they will stay in our environment for up to an estimated 600 years.

"Marine plastic leads to coastal and offshore dead zones, entanglement, death through ingestion, toxic transfer and, once degraded into micro plastics, contamination of the food chain. Walsall will certainly play its full role in helping to reduce plastic waste through a number of specific initiatives drawn up by the council."

Councils cashing in on personal information

COUNCILS across the West Midlands have made nearly £100,000 by selling residents' personal information, new figures reveal.

According to data released via a Freedom of Information request, in the last six years local authorities across the region have sold data from the electoral register to hundreds of organisations and individuals.

The buyers include credit reference agencies, insurance companies, property agencies, political lobbyists and politicians, who pay up to £600 for a full copy of the register, which includes the names and addresses of voters in each area.

The data shows transactions dating back to 2012 for seven local authorities in the West Midlands, which collectively brought in £97,501.50 from selling the register.

Councils insist they are legally obliged to sell the register and fees charged are set by the Electoral Commission. But critics warn unscrupulous firms are abusing the system for marketing and publicity purposes.

Big Brother Watch director Silkie Carlo said: "No public authority should sell residents' personal information to private entities for profit. This sale of data leaves us open to targeted advertising and undermines trust in councils."

Walsall Council has sold the register 15 times in the last four years, bringing in £7,037. Dudley Council made £13,825 in the last five years. Wolverhampton Council made £8,664.50 over the last four years, with the majority of sales made to credit agencies.

Shropshire Council has made £5514.50 since 2016. Telford & Wrekin Council has made £12,054 from selling data since 2012, with figures showing two sales this year to political parties and six sales in the last two years to councillors. Birmingham City Council has brought in £39,916 since 2012 - with buyers including estate agents, universities and a firm that specialises in selling cheap furniture.

Building revived as cafe opens



Councillor Angela Underhill, Sharon Felton and Councillor Rose Burley enjoy a cuppa

A NEW cafe has opened in Darlaston Town Hall after a £40,000 revamp. The Grade II listed hall was at risk of closing but the charity Darlaston All Active took over the lease last year. Now the cafe has re-opened to the public.

The cafe has created two-part time jobs in the area. Project manager Sharon Felton said: "It has taken a lot of work but we are very pleased with the end result.

"Our main aim is to serve the community and all the money

spent in the cafe goes back into our charity work.

"People need to know there is a beautiful community kitchen here for them. We want people to come in and have a bite to eat and hopefully it will help target isolation."

Walsall Council looking for a community group to take over the site two years ago.

Initially, they approved a 25-year lease to see Murray Hall Community Trust take over the site for £1 a year but negotiations broke down

and the trust withdrew their bid.

Councillor Rose Burley, who was there for the opening, said: "It was great. We are absolutely delighted with the number of people who have supported it.

"Darlaston Town Hall is open for business and will remain open for the community."

The cafe is open for breakfast daily from 8am until 1pm while afternoon tea can be booked in from 1pm until 4pm by calling 0121 568 6144.

On cloud nine with skydiving fundraiser

A DARING car salesman took to the skies - for a leap of faith in aid of charity.

Tony Chew, from Essington - a sales executive at Cannock car dealership Brindley Honda in Walsall Road - joined



Skydive - Tony Chew

the Red Devils to plunge thousands of feet through the air for a sponsored jump.

Mr Chew is still adding up his total from the jump in Nottingham, but has passed the £1,000 mark.

Last September, Tony's parents-in-law were involved in a car crash and the West Midlands Air Ambulance arrived on the scene to airlift his father-in-law to Royal Stoke University Hospital.

He has since made a full recovery.

Mr Chew said: "I've always been a big supporter of the West Midlands Air Ambulance but never imagined one of my family members would need to use the service. After my father-in-law's recovery I was determined to give something back and say thank you."

"Everyone at Brindley Honda has shown their support and have backed the skydive."

Chase trek next for ramblers

CANNOCK Chase is the destination for the Walsall Group of the Ramblers' next short walk on Saturday.

It will be across about four miles on the Chase, with the meeting point at the car park at Oak Park C. P. on Lichfield Road, at 9.30am, and more information is available from the walk leader on 07792 978 468.

They will be heading to Melbourne, Derbyshire for a 10-mile circular walk on Sunday. 'A trip down under' is a moderate walk with lots of features.

Non-members are always welcome. More information can be obtained from the walk leader on 07582 091 920.

More information about the Walsall Group is available on the website www.walsallramblers.org.uk, who can also be found on Facebook and Twitter.

Frozen food giant opens inside Range

SIXTEEN new jobs have been created as Iceland opened its doors at The Range.

The store opened in Longcres Industrial Estate, Willenhall, last Thursday. It is one of three UK branches of The Range that the frozen food giant will be opening in.

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Outrage as school brand uniform row rumbles on

PARENTS have hit out at a school's 'outrageous' treatment of pupils who were told not to come in without school-branded coats and bags.

A letter was sent from the head of Ryders Hayes Community School in Walsall telling a parent not to bring their child into school without the appropriate uniform. The parent was even warned the absence could then be counted as 'unauthorised' and go on the pupil's record.

The primary school has faced a fierce backlash from parents over its uniform policy and the letter has now stoked the flames further. Children at the Pelsall school have been told they must have coats, bags and PE kits with school logos on.

School leaders say they made the decision to change the uniform in July 2017 and implemented the changes last week.

However, according to the letter, some parents unhappy at the change have chosen to ignore the ruling. But the headteacher made it clear the school intends to enforce the rules for all pupils.

Education

The letter said: "Unless we receive confirmation from you in writing to the contrary today by 3.30pm, then we have no alternative but to ask you not to bring your child to school on Friday morning, but instead take them to purchase a coat."

"Please bring your child back with the coat by lunchtime tomorrow, and no later than 1pm for afternoon session, reporting to the school office."

"If you continue to breach the uniform rules, or it takes longer than stipulated, to effect the change, the pupil's absence may be counted as unauthorised absence."

The mother, who has not been named, reportedly said: "I have three children. I have not purchased the coats as they have no effect whatsoever on my children's education."

"I bought coats which were of a similar size, and that are able to fit into their lockers."

"I will be sending my children into school on Friday with the coats I have purchased - I have no intention of buying the school-branded coats."

Another said: "There are going to be no winners here. The parents have turned against the school and the school has turned against the parents. The damage to its reputation has already been done."

Door staff's cash

DOOR staff at a Stafford bar raised more than £300 for ill children. Regency security workers based at Yates' collected £301.36 in small change, which will be donated to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Pet crematorium opens in honour of Joey



Karen Barnard with Alf, Ted and Joey

A PET crematorium has been opened by heartbroken animal lovers who lost their 'best friend'.

Karen and Alf Barnard lost their Rhodesian Ridgeback, Joey, and decided to open their own crematorium when they realised the service was not available in Walsall. They lost Joey in October 2014 after he was diagnosed with Lymphoma cancer shortly after his ninth birthday.

After they had to take Joey to a horse cremation unit they were inspired to establish Willowview Pet Cremation with the money left to

Mrs Barnard by her mother, who died exactly two years and one day before Joey.

Mrs Barnard, who is also a mobile dog groomer, said: "Joey was the most loyal Rhodesian Ridgeback. He was my heart and soul, always by my side through thick and thin, not just a pet but a best friend. One evening I was cuddling Joey in front of the fire when he gave me a look of goodbye. When we got up at 7am, he had passed. I could not believe it."

"But this left us with, 'what do we do now?'. We had heard the horror

stories of not getting your own ashes back. Cremating him gave me peace of mind."

"My mother had left me quite a large sum of money and, not wanting to waste the money which is so easily done on new cars holidays, it was suggested we look into doing pet cremations as there is nobody nearby offering this service."

The crematorium in Fernleigh Farm, Pelsall, offers a 24-hour call out, and collection of pets from homes or vets. Ashes are also returned within 24 hours. Call 07545 818068.

Takeaway owner faces jail after eight fall ill

EIGHT people fell ill - with one ending up in critical care - after eating takeaways contaminated with salmonella from a Walsall fast food shop.

Former owner of Blakenall One Call Peri Peri, Muhammed Abdul Moueed Khan, is now facing jail for putting customers at risk.

It is the second time in six months Khan, of Walsall, has been in court charged with hygiene breaches. Khan was previously jailed for six months for a catalogue of serious health and hygiene offences at another premises.

He was back in court for selling pizzas and doner meat that contained salmonella bacteria from the takeaway in Blakenall Lane, Walsall.

Khan pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court to six offences including the selling of food unfit for human consumption and failing to have proper safety measures and food management systems in place to prevent the contamination of high risk food.

Samples

Walsall Council Environmental Health Officers visited the shop in July last year after receiving complaints of food poisoning, the court heard. They took food samples along with swabs from equipment.

Harmful salmonella bacteria was present in all of the swabs and the strain of bacteria matched patient and hospital samples. A Walsall council spokesman said around that time, Public Health England notified bosses of a patient that was being treated at Walsall Manor Hospital for suspected food poisoning. Other people had also fallen ill after eating food from the takeaway.

Khan was previously prosecuted by Walsall Council on March 22. He was given a prison sentence after appearing in crown court following a series of offences that took place at his former business Pizza Cottage in Caldmore Road, Walsall.

The case was adjourned and Khan is next scheduled to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 11.

Unlocking the secrets of heritage



Demonstrator Andy Middlebrook with 10-year-old Melissa Dandy from Darlaston at the Lock House

STEPPING back into Willenhall's past - The Locksmith's House was open to families to explore the history on their doorstep.

As part of The Lock Museum on New Road, Willenhall, the public had access to the Edwardian set-

ting for free as part of a National Heritage Open Day scheme.

The Black Country locksmiths opened on Saturday to the public as part of the open days scheme.

Heritage Open Days is an annual festival of history and culture that

brings together more than 2,500 organisations, 5,000 events and 40,000 volunteers - encouraging places across the country to throw open their doors every September to celebrate heritage, community and history.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Be gas aware, customers told

LANDLORD whg is reminding customers of the importance of being gas aware to coincide with Gas Safety Week, which began on Monday.

Figures show that one in four households inspected in the West Midlands had unsafe gas appliances.

Badly fitted and poorly serviced gas appliances can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide poisoning. According to the Department of Health each year there are around 50 deaths and more than 4,000 medical visits caused by carbon monoxide poisoning.

It is a highly poisonous gas that can kill quickly with no warning, as it has no taste or smell.

Nigel Harris, Director of whg's Home Maintenance Services, said: "We take our customer's safety very seriously and carry out annual gas safety checks at all our properties."

"Every year, we write to our customers to let them know that a gas inspection is due. We need to gain access to the property to carry out the inspection. This only takes about an hour and a half and could help save a life."

Crews tackle huge tyre fire

A FIRE in Great Wyrley sent plumes of black smoke billowing into the air, affecting surrounding areas including Cannock.

Firefighters tackled the blaze in Hazel Lane, where a large amount of tyres caught fire at around 4pm on Sunday.

The quick-thinking actions of crews prevented the spread of the fire to a neighbouring factory. Four crews were in attendance and extinguished the fire using four hose reel jets whilst wearing two breathing apparatus.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service asked residents to keep windows and doors shut during the blaze.

Shed load of new members needed

A GROUP of creative residents is seeking new members. Aldridge Shed will open its doors to the community and host two open days next month.

The charity, which launched three years ago, is made up of people who regularly meet to design, construct and repair items, mainly from wood.

Open days will take place at the group's base at Northgate's Alreweych Court from 10am until 4pm on October 25 and 10am until 1pm on October 27.

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COUNTY NEWS

Region is shown to have heart of gold

PEOPLE in the West Midlands have hearts of gold, according to a British Heart Foundation survey. The figures show that over half (51 per cent) want to be remembered for their kindness above all else, while a third (33 per cent) want to be remembered for their family values and humour is important to more than a quarter (29 per cent).

Materialistic and professional achievements are valued less. Just one in eight (13 per cent) want to be remembered for their work and only a quarter want to be remembered for their wealth. Three quarters wished they could do more to help others.

£500 grants for outdoor learning

SCHOOLS are being encouraged to apply for up to £500 worth of free outdoor learning resources, enabling children to get hands-on with nature.

Applications for The Local School Nature Grants are open from now up until November 30, with £550,000 in total up for grabs.

As well as receiving up to £500 worth of outdoor resources, schools will also receive a two-hour training session for staff on how to getting the most out of the equipment.

For more information and to apply for funding, visit the Learning through Landscapes website at ltl.org.uk/naturegrants/guidance.php.

Homeserve in search for staff

HOME assistance company Home-Serve is holding two recruitment open days at its headquarters in Walsall. The business is seeking new customer service advisers and sales representatives to join its team.

The open days are at the offices in Cable Drive, today, Thursday, between 5pm and 8pm and Saturday, September 29, between 10am and 2pm. People are being invited to come along with the CV for interview. There is a starting salary of £18,200.

Memories of child migration recorded

PEOPLE originating from more than 30 different countries came together to celebrate the culmination of a project that has collected stories of child migration from the 1930s to 2015.

The Birmingham project began in May 2017, with individuals who had migrated to the city from all corners of the world interviewed.

The documents will be archived in the New Library of Birmingham.

Deadline day for library facing closure

A LIBRARY in a village near Walsall is facing closure amid a county-wide shake up in services which aims to save £1.3 million.

A deadline of next April has been set to find an organisation to manage and deliver the Cheslyn Hay Library Service or it may be shut down.

It follows a controversial decision by Staffordshire County Council in July to reduce the library's opening

times to just 10 hours a week as part of a cost-cutting exercise.

Other libraries have become community managed. It means approved groups will deal with the day-to-day running of the library, whilst the council will continue to fund utility bills and maintenance costs. Community group Catherine Care was awarded the contract for the library in April last year but delays associated

with the transfer of the library within a shared building meant they withdrew their offer in May.

Resident Claire Ridgway, aged 42, set up Friends of Cheslyn Hay Library a month ago in order to generate support to keep it open. She has three children, aged 11, 13 and 14, who all have autism and she home-schools two of them. She said: "I feel really passionate about trying to save it. It

is our final community service in the village after the post office and police station shut down."

Gill Heath, the county council's communities chief, said: "We will be searching hard for a new partner to work with in Cheslyn Hay and I am hopeful for the future. If anyone is interested in finding out more they can contact connectedlibraries@staffordshire.gov.uk."

Black Country heroes recognised for efforts

Report by Dayna Farrington

THEY are the best of the Black Country – and now they have been recognised for their hard work and dedication to their communities.

Six people from the region – including two cousins – were among those honoured with a British Empire Medal (BEM) award at a ceremony at Birmingham Council House last Wednesday.

The recipients were presented with the awards by West Midlands Lord Lieutenant John Crabtree OBE, after being named in the New Year's Honours and Queen's Birthday Honours.

Historian Terence Price, from West Bromwich, has been awarded a BEM for his services to his community. Apart from successfully campaigning to prevent demolition of buildings such as Hill House and Farley fountain, the 79-year-old researched and found West Bromwich's first War Memorial, which was hidden in Heath Lane Cemetery.

An avid collector of old photos and postcards, he has published eight books, five on West Bromwich and three on Great Bridge, all of which were best sellers. Money from the sale of his books have been ploughed into restoration projects and community initiatives. He also served 19 years as a West Bromwich magistrate.

He said: "I was greatly honoured to be awarded the BEM. I am very proud of being a West Bromwich man born and bred."

His cousin, 74-year-old Pauline Hodgetts, from Tipton, has been honoured for her passion for the town and its heritage. She created a memorial garden and stone to commemorate the life and athletic achievements of Jack Holden, the marathon runner; restored the drinking fountain in Victoria Park and is chairman of the cemetery group that worked hard to get a British Legion Island and Peace Garden.

Sixty-six-year-old Judith Morris has been honoured after she has trained thousands of young people in first aid. Mrs Morris, from Halesowen, has directly and indirectly been responsible for life-saving episodes since 1962 when she joined St John Ambulance.

Willenhall Rugby Club's Ellyn Pugh has used his passion for the sport to coach, mentor and organise conferences for more than 50 years. The 83-year-old



Front, from left, Kathryn Livingston from Oxley (services to people with Dissociative Identity Disorder), Terence (Terry) Price from West Bromwich (services to community), Pauline Hodgetts from Tipton (services to community in Tipton), Judith Morris from Halesowen (voluntary service to first aid and young people). Back, from left, Ellyn Pugh from Willenhall (voluntary service to rugby), Jennifer Harrison from Halesowen (voluntary service to young people and community), David Walker from Rowley Regis (services to community), David Pearce from Cradley Heath (voluntary and charitable services to healthcare)

established Willenhall RUFC and also developed rugby talent including support for Arnie Evans, John French, Eric Field and Graham Smith. At the age of 77, Ellyn was still involved in coaching rugby at primary schools.

Kathryn Livingston, 61, from Wolverhampton, has been honoured for her work with the often unrecognised and misunderstood condition Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), also referred to as Multiple Personalities. In 1997, she founded First Person Plural (FFP) that specialises in working for those affected by DID.

David Walker, 63, has been honoured for his dedicated work over the last 20 years to helping young people in Sandwell. Mr Walker, who lives in Rowley Regis, is said to have been a life-changing mentor to teenage boys getting them to open up about their problems.

His efforts were cited during his time as a special constable and as a Justice of the Peace, where he often sits on student disciplinary panels. He is also a governor for two schools that are known for good community practice and he runs a garden club after school for Blackheath Primary School.

Cycle route network is on track for an upgrade

PLANS have been unveiled to improve cycling links to railways and tram stations to encourage activity and reduce poor air quality at the same time.

A new cycle infrastructure programme has been produced by Sandwell Council's strategic transport bosses and highlights work which is set to be completed over the next two years. It includes towpath resurfacing works on the Birmingham Canal between Smethwick Galton Bridge and West Bromwich Street in Oldbury and to continue the link-up to the Dudley boundary.

Also mooted are improvements to pedestrian and cycle access to Sandwell and Dudley railway station via Bromford Lane; and resurfacing works on the towpath of Tame Valley Canal between Rushall Junction and Hill Farm bridge to continue in the direction of Tipton and later to the Walsall Canal.

The report also includes the creation of a segregated pedestrian and cycle route from Navigation Lane to Tame Bridge Parkway station, along Walsall Road.

There will also be improved cycle access works to Metro stations, including an improved cycle route along the Metro Line from Black Lake to the Hawthorns.

Councillor Paul Moore, cabinet member for regeneration and economic growth, said there were also plans to introduce pedestrian and cycle routes and toucan crossing upgrades in the area of High Bullen, in Wednesbury.

Dora's Explorers golf day hopes

A CHARITY golf day takes place at Bloxwich Golf Club on Saturday, organised by fundraisers Sister Dora's Explorers.

The group – formed after the mother of one of the group Richard Edge's mother was successfully treated for breast cancer – took on a mammoth charity cycle challenge recently, riding 200 miles in a single day, from Brighton to Walsall Manor Hospital. Cash raised will go towards buying an AccuVein machine on the hospital's chemotherapy ward.

Entry for the golf day costs £200 for a team of four. The price includes a bacon roll and coffee on arrival as well as a buffet, raffle and 18 hole four ball team. There will also be individual prizes. For details contact Mr Edge on richard.edge7@hotmail.com

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FINAL WHISTLE

Appeal on war heroes in street naming bid

RELATIVES of seven First World War heroes whose names are engraved on a memorial in Chasetown, near Brownhills, are being sought.

Now Lichfield District Council is trying to locate their family members. The authority is seeking consent to name six streets in a new housing development in honour of the ex-soldiers.

Burntwood Town Council proposed that the streets on the Milestone Way estate be named in memory of the town's First World War heroes.

The district council is responsible for street naming, and is seeking any surviving relatives to get in touch in order to gain permission.

The names on the war memorial are: Herbert Derry, Harry Alltree, William Buckley, William F Kelly and John Kelly, Roy Hayward and Enoch Hancox.

The six proposed streets are: Alltree Road, Derry Drive, Hayward Drive, Hancox Close, Buckley Way and Kelly Close. Lichfield Councillor Liz Little said: "We were pleased to accept Burntwood Town Council's suggestion to name these roads in honour of the seven local men who lost their lives fighting for their country in the First World War."

Relatives are asked to email katie.badger@lichfielddc.gov.uk or call 01543 308763 before 5pm on September 27.

Alert on danger of burning rubbish

FIREFIGHTERS have warned people not to resort to burning rubbish, following a large blaze.

Crews from Walsall and Bloxwich tackled a large skip fire on Friday afternoon, which spread from nearby rubbish.

A warning was issued after the fire was put out about the dangers of setting material alight.

Walsall Fire Station put a warning out on its Twitter account, saying: Walsall's second appliance and Bloxwich Fire dealing with a large skip fire started by a nearby rubbish fire.

"Burning rubbish should never be the go-to option."

The warnings comes follows hundreds of fires in the open during the summer.

School reunion

EDWARD Shelley High School friends are holding a reunion at the Lyndon House Hotel, Upper Rushall Street, Walsall on October 6, starting at 1.30pm. For further information contact Robert Sim on 01922 743618.

Pupils are top Roald models for big day



Grace Academy students

ONE of the world's number one storytellers has been celebrated by more than 900 students from Grace Academy Darlaston on Roald Dahl Day.

Students were encouraged to test their knowledge of Roald Dahl's best-selling adventures including James and the Giant Peach, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda and The BFG, with prizes including books and Roald Dahl mugs.

Student Kyanne Lockwood, Year 8, said Matilda was her favourite, adding: "Matilda was an adventurous little girl whose parents didn't want her

to be educated so she kept a library in her bedroom and read in secret."

Fellow pupil Imogen Johnson, said: "I like all the energy Roald Dahl put into his books, and it makes you want to read more. When I was in Year 3 my teacher read my favourite Roald Dahl book, 'Esio Trot', to me and then I immediately read it again for myself. In the book two old people fall in love because of the tortoise."

Louie Peake added: "The books have loads of description in them which helps with vocabulary, and Roald Dahl is famous for making up

words out of nowhere. In my favourite book, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, it just feels like the message is that you don't need everything in life - the small things matter."

English teacher Ruth Scrivens said Roald Dahl could have the same significance as Shakespeare in years to come. She said: "Roald Dahl wraps young people in a world of imagination. He takes them on a journey and it doesn't matter if it is on a giant peach or to a land of dreams like in 'The BFG'. He conjures up images every child can take with them."

Lorries may be restricted to one M6 lane in plan

TRAFFIC could be stopped from joining the M6 at Walsall and lorries restricted to using one lane of the motorway - two ideas being looked at as part of a study on the region's road network.

A 'shared occupancy' lane on the M6 is also being considered in the Midlands Motorway Hub study by Midlands Connect, which oversees transport, infrastructure and development.

Head of technical programmes, Simon Statham, said the project was aimed improving journey times and road safety as well as powering economic growth.

In a presentation to members of the West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee this week, Mr Statham said he was looking at ideas to improve the flow of the M6 from Junction 3, which crosses the M42 east of Birmingham, and Junction 11 for Gailey in Staffordshire. He said: "We have identified things to improve the flow.

"They include restrictions at Junction 9 [for Walsall and Wednesbury] but then we do need to understand the wider impact on the network - what will happen to the surrounding areas?"

"Another idea is an HGV lane so they are not overtaking each other on the motorway. And we are asking if we can provide space for a high occupancy vehicle lane to get people to car share." The final recommendations from the study are passed on to local authorities and Highways England.

As part of it, the group is investigating how to make better use of the M6 Toll and looking at more park and ride schemes. It says park and ride schemes could be opened at Featherstone, M6 Junction 11 and Bloxwich. It would also look at the benefits and environmental impact of a new motorway called the Western Strategic Route, from the M5 at Bromsgrove to the M6 at the junction of the M54.

Julian Pottinger, Director of Little Pot Travel, a haulage firm based in Oldbury, said: "I'd be interested in seeing more detail on the idea of a Western Strategic Route linking the M5 and M6."

Junction 10 scheme is step nearer



Junction 10 of the M6 for Walsall and Wolverhampton, which is one of the busiest in the country

A MAJOR plan to cut congestion at Junction 10 on the M6 has moved closer after council bosses moved to snap up nearby land.

Huge four-lane bridges will be built over the Black Country Route and Wolverhampton Road, near the junction. Walsall Council has now lodged a compulsory purchase order (CPO) for the land ahead of work starting.

The much-needed work to cut disruption at one of the busiest sections of motorway in the country will see two new four-lane bridges built, increasing the capacity from 8,000 to 10,500 vehicles an hour.

The major project, which was given the nod by planners earlier this year, is expected to take around two years to complete and is due to begin late next year or early 2020.

The £64.5 million pound revamp of the junction, where the motorway meets the Black Country Route and Wolverhampton Road, was unveiled by Highways England and Walsall Council two years ago.

The project is now a step closer to starting after the council announced it had taken out the CPO, which allows bodies to take land for major builds without planning consent. However, the authority will

need to strike a deal with the land owners before taking control of it.

The scheme has been backed by Walsall council leader Mike Bird and MP Eddie Hughes. Councillor Bird said: "It's another step in the process of improving drivers' experience at Junction 10. Planning permission is in place."

The scheme will also include widening the crossroads junction on the Black Country Route and the A454 at the turn off for Tempus Drive and Bloxwich Lane. The existing bridges at the junction will continue to be used while the new bridges are built.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Victim was found tied up in hallway

A MURDER victim was found by a friend with his hands and feet tied and a belt around his neck, an inquest heard. Kevin Shepperson, aged 39, had not been seen for several days before the discovery of his body at his flat in Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall, on August 22, said Mr Zafar Siddique, the Black Country Coroner.

The Walsall-born victim, found in the hallway of the second-floor property, died of multiple injuries at the scene, a post mortem concluded.

There were signs of a struggle at the flat and an 'untidy search' had been made, the inquest heard. Two men have since appeared in court accused of Mr Shepperson's murder.

Cameron MacKenzie, of Richmond Street, Chuckery, and Wayne Kendall, of Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall, both 21, were remanded in custody at Wolverhampton Crown Court until October 8 when they are due to enter pleas on the murder charge.

The front door of Mr Shepperson's home is understood to have been open when his friend found him. He was single and was believed to have lived alone. The coroner formally suspended the inquest, held at Oldbury, until the outcome of the criminal investigation.

Man who died in M1 crash named

A MAN who died in a crash on the M1 has been named as 24-year-old Frazer Gray from Walsall.

Mr Gray, from Pelsall, was the driver of a black Audi A3 which left the carriageway between junctions 20 and 21 in Dunton Bassett, Leicestershire during the early hours of Sunday.

His car came to rest on an embankment but when Mr Gray got out of the car, he was then hit by a silver Ford Fiesta. He was taken to hospital but died shortly after.

Police released his name last Thursday.

Anyone who saw the vehicle before or after the collision or who has dashcam footage is asked to contact the Serious Collision Investigation Unit at Leicestershire Police on 101 quoting incident 48 of September 9.

Course on impact of the Great War

A SEVEN-WEEK course on the end of the First World War and its aftermath is kicking off tonight, Thursday. The Aldridge branch of the Workers' Educational Association is running the course at Aldridge Community Centre, Middlemore Lane, on Thursdays at 7pm.

It will be led by Patrick McCarthy and costs £53.90 with enrolment at the first meeting. More information is available on 0121 353 3279.

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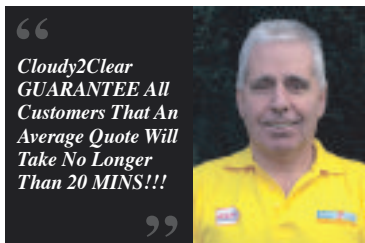
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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Miss title wasn't a hit with Siobhan

A COUPLE of weeks ago this column recalled the rather wearisome comedian whose act involved masquerading as the Mayor of Stafford and then offending people with stupid comments on Twitter.

Well I'm now wondering if there is actually more than one of them. Because it seems hard to believe that Siobhan O'Dwyer, who vented her spleen on social media after being addressed by an air hostess as 'Miss' rather than 'Dr O'Dwyer' can be anything other than a wind-up.

"I didn't spend eight years at university to be called Miss," she hollered indignantly.

Talk about a chip on the shoulder. It's a wonder the plane was able to take off with that much ego on board. On Ryan Air they would have added a baggage charge for it.

"It's not about the title," she elaborated. "It's about the fact that this wouldn't have happened if I was a man."

Oh, gerrover yerself, love. Of course it would. Because many organisations – this one included – have a policy of restricting the honorific 'Dr' to medics and clerics. If you save lives, we call you doctor. If you read lots of books, you're Mr, Mrs or Miss. It's not that big a deal.

And a quick glance at Siobhan's Twitter feed shows she hasn't performed much open-heart surgery lately. Rather, she appears to spend more time on the picket line. She looks one very angry young lady.

It transpires her doctorate is in philosophy, and she earns a crust by teaching philosophy to others at Exeter University. Presumably producing another generation of philosophy lecturers, a bit like one of those pyramid-selling schemes.

Still at least she has a job, unlike anarchist campaigner Ian Bone. He hit the headlines recently for heckling the small children of Tory MP Jacob Rees-Mogg, telling them "Your Daddy is a horrible person. Lots of people hate him."

Brave or what? Anyway, Mr Bone, has proudly explained how he has never had a job since graduating from Swansea University in 1968 – unless you count publishing a pamphlet celebrating 'hospitalised coppers' – and has been on benefits ever since, carving out a comfortable living in a large detached house on the outskirts of Bristol.

Two questions: What sort of anarchist lives off state benefits? Aren't they supposed to be against government and all that? And secondly, did he get a gold watch from the dole office to mark his 50 years?

Is making misogyny a hate crime, just a step too far?



Brand of humour – Jo's sharp comment on men in midst of misogyny 'hate crime' debate



Not happy – Serena Williams, even before she saw an Aussie paper's widely-criticised cartoon



Chipping in with food for thought for Labour – memories of Mandy's mushy peas gaffe

Kicking out blokey banter on football

I DON'T entirely understand how making misogyny – ie hatred of women – illegal is supposed to work, in the wake of calls by Labour MP Stella Creasey. I am one of those bizarre blokes who prefers female company and would rather natter with women than get drawn into a blokey debate about footie. But it is a fact that some men simply dislike women, just as some men dislike cats, soccer or speed humps. It is also true that some women dislike blokes, as expressed by Jo Brand in one of her classic quips: "The best way to a man's heart is through his hanky pocket with a bread knife." It seems curious that the law overlooks Jo's advice on knife murder but may soon crack down on "disrespectful" men who wolf-whistle at women. I dare say I should be sent for re-education.

At a time when overworked police can't cope with real crimes, one force is criticised for inviting complaints about non-criminal incidents. Under the banner "Hate will not be tolerated in South Yorkshire," the local force is urging folk to report non-crime hate incidents, defined as events "which can include things like offensive or insulting comments, online, in person or in writing." The idea seems to be that non-criminal speech or writing might turn into hate crime. On the same basis, why not nick drivers at 27 or 28mph? They may not be breaking the speed limit now but they might in the future, right?

I WAS going to write a couple of lines about some of the public's angrier responses to the police tweet. Better not. It might constitute a non-criminal incident.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



IN any case, thanks to predictive-spelling programs, your non-criminal words may not even be the ones you intended. Among the many responses to the South Yorkshire Police tweet was: "Amber Rudd is a crime against humidity."

THREE cheers for the Commission for Religious Education's plea for school RE lessons to include not only religions but atheism, secularism and humanism. At long last, RE teachers will be able to say: "Right, kids, I've given you all the guff from the curriculum on organised religion. Now, here's what most of us actually believe." In my limited experience, if you explain that it's perfectly fine, decent and respectable not to believe in a god, people breathe a sigh of relief.

I REFERRED recently to tithes – the one-tenth of your income demanded by the Church in olden times. A reader has a collection of 200-year-old receipts for rents and tithes from the landlord and the church, paid by tenant farmers. In some years the landlord reduced the rent because of 'the bad state of the markets' but as far as my reader can find: "There is never a penny knocked off by the church. Clearly the aristocracy showed more Christian charity than the church."

SOME folk are raging against the 'racist' cartoon showing Serena Williams throwing her tantrum. As they are fully entitled to do. Yet I wonder how many of them were defiantly chanting 'Je Suis Charlie' a couple of years ago in their support of the Charlie Hebdo magazine after the massacre at its Paris offices? Most people claim to cherish freedom of expression. What a lot of them mean is: "I believe in freedom of expression – but..."

SCIENTISTS in Switzerland have developed a new app which will tell you exactly where your lost golf ball is. It detects a signal from a tiny transmitter inside the ball. Very clever. However, it has one basic flaw. It can only find the golf ball where the ball actually is. A much older method involves dropping a spare ball through a hole in your pocket and down your trouser leg, so you can find the ball exactly where you want it to be.

IF we believe the Guardian, research shows that: "Labour has evolved from being the party of casseroles and bingo to the party of quinoa and student protests." Anyone remember New Labour and the mushy peas? It is a story, oft told and always denied. Labour's Peter Mandelson, on a 1997 campaign visit to a chip shop Oop North, allegedly pointed to the mushy peas and asked for "some of that guacamole." Labour is always boasting about its half-a-million members. I wonder how many of them could recognise mushy peas, mild ale or a whippet.

A WHIPPET, comrade? It's like a miniature Borzoi.

TALKING POINT



A role to play for TV drama producers

SOAP operas are not averse to tackling hard-hitting storylines, and two of the popular dramas have now resorted to highlighting problems that many don't know how to handle.

Yet often, such subjects – homelessness and mental health – are taboo and, certainly with the latter, there seems a certain stigma attached.

As viewers tend to identify with soap storylines and characters, it is hoped these issues can be brought into the open and, perhaps even tackled.

In Corrie, Sean Tully has found himself, literally, on the street. Apparently it was actor Antony Cotton's own idea to bring the issue to life. He knew someone who suddenly lost everything and ended up on the streets, so he himself could identify with the problem.

Help has now been found. But the tragic plight could happen to anyone at any time, and, for those in desperate need – and through no fault of their own – sympathy, and a solution must be found.

Hollyoaks, meanwhile, has launched a mental health storyline, with one of its characters being diagnosed with schizophrenia. Programme makers say they have worked closely with the charity MIND to ensure this issue is sensitively portrayed. Again, this is an issue that sufferers require help with, and that others need to understand better.

The battle faced by Destiny's Child singer Michelle Williams with depression shows how anyone can be affected.

Other big names stars have their own troubles. Selena Gomez is an idol to millions but has revealed a battle with alcohol, revealing via the lyrics of a song she was no longer sober. And it's sad to see.

Internet trolls are believed to have had a hand in Gomez falling off the wagon. It is easy to say she should set a better example and 'stay strong' for her adorers, but sympathy is needed and one can only hope the singer gets the help she needs for her addiction. It is after all, an illness.

Ant McPartlin's issues are well-documented. And, while I would never condone his drink-driving actions, it is clear he is a troubled soul who needs medical help to sort out his problems.

While there is a support network in place and there are friends are family to turn to, not all sufferers can pay big money for treatment. Some may argue that their illnesses are of their own making.

But that is not always the case, and this is where society comes in, to have a better understanding of conditions, and offer more help to anyone afflicted.

MARK SHIPP

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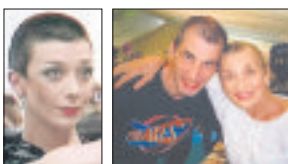
Sadness at death of Blake's 7 actress

I WOULD like to add my own tribute to the passing of the very dear Jacqueline Pearce who many will remember played Supreme Commander Servalan in TV sci-fi drama Blake's 7, following her death at the age of 74.

She gained cult status for playing the ruthless but stylish leader of the evil Federation from 1978-81 and also made an appearance in the 1985 Doctor Who episode The Two Doctors.

Writer Russell T Davies once described her as "a truly fine actor" as well as "glorious, vivid, passionate, filthy and the most wonderful company". Jacqueline had worked with Davies in his first TV drama Dark Season, which was shown in 1991 and also starred a young Kate Winslet.

Those of us of a certain age will always remember with affection the



Left, as Servalan and right, Mark with Jacqueline last year

BBC's science fiction output of the 1970s and 1980s, chiefly shows like Dr Who and Blake's 7 and the comedy show Red Dwarf, which always had budget-restricted creaky sets and low-rent special effects, but they did the best with what they had, and their inventive story lines and interesting

characters often made up for it. One of these characters was Servalan, a kind of hard-as-nails villainess commander of the evil empire side in the Terry Nation-created Blake's 7 TV series.

I was fortunate enough to meet her as the photograph above shows, with me wearing an appropriately themed T-shirt which she could not help but comment on.

I met her at various shows along the years, but only really recently properly spoke to her about her roles and the lasting legacy she gave to our screens in the 1970's, including last year in Coventry.

The Blakes 7 cast are now diminishing slowly over time.

MARK DABBS
Walsall

Loneliness increasing in over-60s

A RECENT programme on BBC Radio 4 dealt with the problem of loneliness and isolation. One woman made a very telling comment that she never took photos because she had no-one to show them to.

She lived in rural Gloucestershire, but wherever you live the problem is the same, empty shops, banks, post offices, pubs, libraries and reductions in public transport.

These service reductions isolate people, particularly the elderly.

According to Age UK, half a million people over 60 spend every day alone. Online shopping and the growth of town retail outlets may suit some people but it's to the detriment of the high street. There is diminishing community spirit, in a world that supports the individual rather than the collective.

ALAN DAVIS
Darlaston

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Spruce-up for station

ACCORDING to the Express and Star Walsall bus station is getting nearly £700,000 spent on it to 'brighten it up', at the same time our bus service No.22 doesn't run half the time because of a lack of drivers.

So we will have a bus station that doesn't have buses to go alongside our library that doesn't have books.

KEVIN PLATT
Walsall

On the road to call for new laws

OVER recent months in Darlaston I have witnessed so much injustice to road traffic victims time and time again when we have been waiting years for the Government to carry out a full review of road traffic laws.

We are plagued by speeding motorists, anti-social parking over pavements, dangerous speeds and parking in front of schools, reckless overtaking of cyclists, under-passing on motorways. There should be law changes to cover these with meaningful enforcement.

Confiscating the illegal speeding motor cycles and noisy quad bikes by our police is one power but there are many untaxed and illegal vehicles that clutter our lanes, alleys

and unlisted areas. Why scrap illegal or unclaimed stolen vehicles? If they are safe and roadworthy, resell them. Money can be re-invested in our communities.

Sentencing levels must also be reformed. Killing people on our roads does not receive the weight of sentence murderers have meted out by our courts.

Please join me in writing to MPs and councillors encouraging them to lobby the transport minister and government to carry out a full review of road traffic laws and sentencing tariffs.

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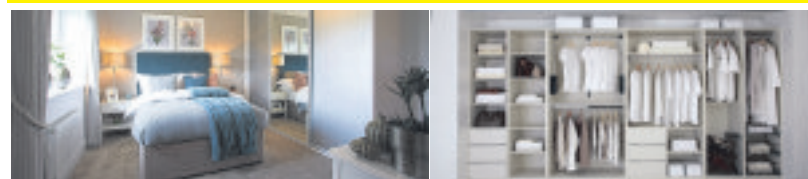
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Population growth is main green issue

THE Earth is under environmental threat as never before. Britain faces HS2, airport expansion, new motorways, increasing gridlock, dozens of new 'garden' towns and a whacking one million homes for Oxfordshire.

National planning no longer exists, it is replaced by the force of massive and continuous population growth which, before our eyes, is rewriting planning law, redefining the green belt and ignoring conservationists.

Human population growth is the greatest single driver of greenhouse

gas, deforestation, loss of species, the acidity and plastic pollution of the oceans. The Greens will not acknowledge this blatant truth. At the core of the Green movement should be the concept that we share this planet in proportion with plants and animals. Their primary and urgent message should be the need for a national and global population policy.

Government and opposition remain silent and petrified of the population issue. To allow our population to rocket, when the environmental dam-

age and pressure on resources it is causing is obvious.

We desperately need a Green Party with guts to carry this unpopular, but imperative, message since they clearly recognise the perilous state of our planet. And yet they will sit at their forthcoming Bristol conference and continue to promote the idea that without a limit on population, we can live in a green, sustainable, 'Garden of Eden' for all time.

KEITH WATKINS
Walsall

Stop living in the past, Mr Rhodes

CAN someone tell Peter Rhodes to stop living in the past.

In his column on September 4, he says that after Brexit we will rediscover our sovereign identity - which sovereign identity is that Peter? The one where we caused millions of Indians to die of starvation or the one where we left African countries unable to govern themselves properly?

Perhaps you are referring to the 50s, 60s and 70s when we asset stripped and failed to modernise, when our bosses, unions and government fought each other for power. The future of this country is owned by the young, not you and me Peter and they want to be Europeans. All Brexit is doing is to make life difficult for them.

Stop looking at the past through rose coloured spectacles; the best of our young know what sort of world they want and it is not the make believe one being advertised by Brexiters.

ROGER WATTS
Walsall

LETTERS EXTRA

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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graeme.andrew@expressandstar.co.uk

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Time for a vote on what we know now

THE politicians who promoted Brexit promised "sunlit uplands". They didn't talk about a "no deal" Brexit with stockpiles of food and medicines, lack of access to radioisotopes for scanners and cancer treatment, and the destruction of car manufacturers' supply chains.

They promised to save £350 million per week that we could spend on the NHS, and a clutch of new trade deals from all over the world ready on the day we left. We now know their claims are untrue. They are reduced to celebrating a trade deal with a few African nations (currently representing 0.7 per cent of our trade). We should have a people's vote on the final Brexit deal, so that we can make a decision based on what we now know.

JUDITH KING
Walsall

Lorry driver on memory lane to past

I AM now a retired lorry driver. I am 88 years old and I once worked for a Manchester frozen food company in 1950 called Lovell Wall.

I used to deliver frozen food, etc, to the firms in and around the Wolverhampton area.

I was wondering if any of your readers might have worked for these companies and if they have, I would appreciate it if they could call me on 01309 641199 and I would then call them right back.

The firms were Moorcream, Tipton, the manager was called Mr Pete Piola; M K G Creameries of Cannock; The Colonel Transport Cafe at Bloxwich; Salmons of Walsall; March & Baxter, Brierley Hill, and the Pantry Cafe opposite where I used to stay overnight.

Another one was Ashford Dairies, which was situated in Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge, and the manager was Mr Jackson.

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Swimmers Channel their efforts into huge swim

FOR most people, swimming the Channel would be considered a huge achievement.

But an intrepid team of swimmers, who formed in memory of a friend who died, crossed the 20-mile stretch separating England and France not once, not twice – but an incredible four times without stopping.

The six-person team, led by Paul Bates, originally from Walsall, took on the gruelling task, making it a record by becoming the first in Europe to complete a four-way crossing of the English Channel.

The challenge was completed as a relay, with each member swimming for an hour before a teammate took over. The pals were at sea for almost two days, crossing 80 miles. They battled through strong winds and choppy currents to complete the arduous journey in 46 hours and 13 minutes. One member of the team remained in the water at all times.

Big Rick's Swim Team formed 10 years ago in memory of Walsall swimmer Mark Rickhuss, who died aged 41 of a heart attack in 2005 after helping a friend cross the Channel. The father-of-two previously swam the Channel himself in 1999.

Friend and keen swimmer Paul decided to put together a team to take on charity swims in Mark's memory.

They crossed the Channel for the first time in 2011 and had also completed three two-way swims but this time decided to something no team in Europe had managed before.

Members have come and gone over the last decade, during which time the group has raised an impressive £95,000 for charity, but Paul, 50, managed to convince five friends from Perry Beches Swimming Club to join him on his mission.



Flying the flag, and a West Brom banner



A message for one of the team



The intrepid bunch on the beach



Tribute – Mark Rickhuss

The group made up of Paul, Stuart Fuller, from Rushall, Ross Emery, from Streetly, Ryan Coley, from Halesowen, Charlie Wheadon, from Erdington, and another friend Melanie Holland, from Norwich, trained for six months before finally taking to the water at Dover for the daunting challenge on Tuesday, September 4 in the

pitch-black darkness at 3.20am. Paul said: "We did a two-way swim two years ago but for this one we doubled everything."

They had set out hoping to smash the world record for a four-way crossing, but came agonisingly short of the 42-hour time posted by a Mexican team.

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Bus services axed in big Arriva shake-up

BUS services have been axed in a shake-up of routes which have been labelled a 'step backwards'.

Arriva Midlands has announced a raft of changes to services in Walsall, Stafford and Cannock but Walsall Council leader Mike Bird has slammed the 'disappointing' decision.

He said: "This is all about integrated transport and the consumer doesn't seem to matter in this case. I'm disappointed by the changes and hope that Transport for West Midlands look at this."

"It's a step backwards for transport in the region but unfortunately it's a case of use it or lose it. I will speak to the people involved and see if this is a done deal."

Arriva says that the changes will mostly affect evening and early morning journeys.

Most of the changes start on October 29 with the number 3 service between Cannock, Brownhills and Walsall seeing a cut in journeys in the week and on Saturdays.

Morning

A number of buses across Stafford and Cannock and nearby villages will also be affected.

From October 28 the 3A service between Walsall and Brownhills will no longer be run by Arriva but by National Express West Midlands.

It's not all bad news though as an extra early morning journey, at 6.10am, is being added to the 75, 75A and 75B buses between Cannock and Stafford to help workers on shifts at the Argos Distribution Centre in Stafford. Passengers in Cannock can also expect newly refurbished buses.

Simon Mathieson, area managing director for Arriva Midlands North said: "Our intention with these changes is to build on that and create a bus network that is as successful as it can be."

Full timetables and route maps at www.arrivabus.co.uk/midlands

New Travelodge jobs call



The new £7.8 million Travelodge in Walsall town centre is starting to take shape and now bosses are recruiting for staff

MORE than a dozen jobs are up for grabs at the new £7.8 million Travelodge in Walsall - as the building starts to take shape.

Work on the project to build the 60-bedroom hotel in the town centre is well under way.

The Wisemore Central site, next to Tesco Extra, is being transformed as part of a new development. It will see a Travelodge Hotel, a McDonald's fast-food restaurant and a further 15,000 sq ft of leisure and retail premises built in the town.

Now, Travelodge has launched a recruitment drive to search for 16 members of staff to work at the hotel. The roles include hotel manager, assistant hotel manager, receptionist, housekeeping team members among others.

The development will be complete by the end of the year, transforming the current derelict site while generating between 100 and 120 jobs overall. To find out more about the jobs visit: www.travelodge.co.uk/careers

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Youngsters putting their lives at risk

Old police HQ being used as playground

YOUTHS are putting their lives at risk by using the former Walsall police station as an unofficial playground, according to a police chief.

Chief Superintendent Andy Parsons, commander at Walsall Police, has said youngsters are putting themselves in danger by entering the dilapidated building on Green Lane.

Mr Parsons said: "I'm urging people to stay away from the building as it is extremely unsafe. Fortunately we haven't received any reports of any injuries but I fear if this activity continues, it will only be a matter of time."

"We're working with partners and have recently served a community protection warning notice on the land owner which gives them 28 days to re-secure the site."



The station, built in October 1967



The landmark building is now rundown

Police have been previously alerted to trespassers on the site, along with an arson attack, numerous metal thefts and sightings of teens riding bikes on the roof.

A 17-year-old was arrested on Monday on suspicion of burglary at the property, and was released pending investigation.

Officers from neighbourhood policing teams moved into Walsall Civic Centre in 2016 as part of a partnership with the local authority to allow partners to work even closer together. Labour councillor Lee Jeavons, who represents Birchills Leamore, said youngsters should heed the police's warning and avoid the site. He said:

"Any empty building could have dangers inside. It's not advisable to go into there and since it's private property, you will be trespassing."

"Please do not go in there because it's a building the police abandoned because it was not safe for use and you don't know what hazards are in there."

"I've not seen anything myself, but I've seen reports that there has been anti-social behaviour on the site. So my message to the owner is please secure your site."

The owners were unavailable for comment. Anyone with information can call West Midlands Police on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Estates

"We've also spoken to the owner who has assured us that the site will be secured imminently."

"This behaviour is not only irresponsible but also illegal, we've increased patrols in the area in an effort to trace those involved."

Police officers were moved out of the 36,500 sq ft building in October 2016 and the property is no longer owned by the West Midlands Police as it was sold in November 2017. It was sold as part of the overall force estates strategy which earmarked buildings which were not fit-for-purpose and where savings could be made to help protect policing services in the future.

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£1.4m help for effort in African rainforest

ACADEMICS from the Black Country will help transform the lives of people in the Congo rainforest thanks to a £1.4 million boost.

Staff from the University of Wolverhampton are set to work within five Congo Basin countries as part of the Citizen Voices for Change project.

It comes after the government's Department for International Development handed the cash pot to the university's Centre for International Development and Training to support the African forests.

Dr Aurelian Mbzibain, programme manager for the project, said: "We are delighted to have secured £1.4m from the Department for International Development for this important project in the Congo Basin."

"The aim of the project is to work in partnership with local organisations and communities to ensure private sector companies are working within their contracts and operating within EU timber regulations."

A team from the university will work with the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) as part of the project.

They will support forest governance alongside others from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Gabon and Democratic Republic of Congo over the next three years.

Helpers in driving seat with new bus



The van, which has been specially adapted for use by the Landywood District Voluntary Help Centre

USERS of a help centre have celebrated the arrival of a brand new £43,000 minibus.

The 16-seater Peugeot Boxer has been specially adapted for use by the Landywood District Voluntary Help Centre, on the Walsall Road in Great Wyrley.

Members from the help centre have been raising funds for three years.

Chris Myatt, the chairman and secretary of the help centre, said: "We have had raffles and garage sales and we've had quite a lot of help from

groups in the area and supermarkets, such as Sainsbury's and Morrisons. That's how we got to the target."

Ms Myatt said a lot of members had turned out for the ribbon-cutting which was done by 98-year-old Hazel Whittaker who has been associated with the centre for approximately 25 years.

The minibus was a replacement for one the centre previous used for 13 years. Ms Myatt added: "Using the old minibus in the last few years has been quite problematic."

"It was costing it more than it needed to and now we've got this spe-

cially adapted one. I'm always proud of all the fundraising we do because people are very loyal."

"We'd like thank people for their support."

The centre, which has been running for over 40 years, relies on donations and volunteers to keep it running. It launched with the intention of offering help with day-to-day activities like shopping for infirm and housebound residents.

The organisation grew and later established a drop-in centre and began offering social visits and gardening services as well as a transport scheme.

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Tennis treat served up at sports clinic



Jocelyn Rae, 2010 Commonwealth Games mixed doubles champion, who will be at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre

GREAT Britain tennis players will be at a popular tennis club to host a special Davis Cup day on Saturday. The one-off event will see Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre turned into a tennis clinic.

There will be targeted coaching classes for all ages and abilities for both members and non-members provided by former Davis Cup players. Danny Sapsford, former Davis Cup player for Great Britain and Jocelyn Rae who was 2010 Commonwealth Games mixed doubles champion will be on course to lead the sessions.

The event is being run with the help of Bright Ideas for Tennis, a charity which has been set up by former top-ranked British tennis players to support tennis clubs, increase membership and improve facilities.

Sapsford, who competed in four majors, reaching the third round of Wimbledon in 1999 before losing to Pete Sampras, will then partner with another former Davis Cup player in an exhibition match against two of Cheslyn Hay top players. Chris Perrin, head coach at Cheslyn Hay Tennis Club, said: "This is fantastic for tennis at our club."

Sprint buses en route in time for the city games

A £33 MILLION tram-style bus service from the Black Country to Birmingham will begin operating in time for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, it has been announced.

The Sprint bus route will run along the A34 between Walsall and Birmingham every 10 minutes. An operator is yet to be chosen.

However, Transport for West Midlands says there will be 20 stops along the route. The buses will have their own dedicated lane through areas of high congestion, including at the Scott Arms pub in Perry Barr.

It will also get traffic light priority at busy junctions and tickets will only be purchased off-board to speed the service up. The route is one of three which have been pushed ahead of schedule to ensure they are operating in time for the Commonwealth Games. The Walsall to Birmingham route will serve the Games Village and Alexander Stadium.

The two other routes are Birmingham to Birming-

Report by Alex Ross

ham Airport and Solihull and Birmingham to Sutton Coldfield. In total, the three routes will cost £110m.

Mayor of the West Midlands Andy Street said: "Sprint will work in tandem with the new suburban rail lines and Metro tram routes we are building, creating a transport network that can grow our economy, give people cleaner air and squeeze the maximum benefit possible from HS2. But Sprint can also help make the Commonwealth Games a success which is why we are accelerating three of the routes."

The journey time between Walsall and Birmingham will be 40 minutes.

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Transfer to treat stroke patients 'went smoothly'

Grand chance in frame



Young people can get clicking for a chance to win £1,000

A SEARCH has launched for Walsall social media fanatics to submit their most Instagram-worthy shots from the area - with £1,000 up for grabs for the best snaps.

National Rail has announced the hunt for the nation's most Instagrammable locations for 16-25 Railcard, after revealing that a third of young people choose their travel destinations based on how good they will look on their social media feeds.

The research showed that young people in Walsall are con-

stantly on the lookout for the best selfie spots and will upload an average of 12 photos to Instagram every week, to show they have been visiting the coolest bars, restaurants, attractions and holiday destinations.

For the chance to win £1,000 and the title of Walsall's best Instagrammer, locals should upload their image to Instagram, tagging @national.rail and using the hashtag #instarail, or on the National Rail Facebook page, using #instarail. T&Cs apply.

HOSPITAL chiefs in Walsall have reported a positive outlook following the transfer of services for local stroke patients.

It means that they are now treated at a newly-refurbished hyper acute unit at New Cross in Wolverhampton.

The reconfigured model of care for stroke services, drawn up by the West Midlands Clinical Senate and NHS England, was approved by the town's Clinical Care Group (CCG) and began in April. Walsall's Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) clinic - for the treatment of brief episodes of neurological dysfunction caused by a loss of blood flow in the brain, spinal cord, or retina - was transferred at the same time, as it is a consultant-led service.

Stroke rehabilitation services in the town have remained the same as before, except that the stroke ward at Walsall Manor Hospital has been redesignated as a rehabilitation facility for patients requiring the greatest clinical need.

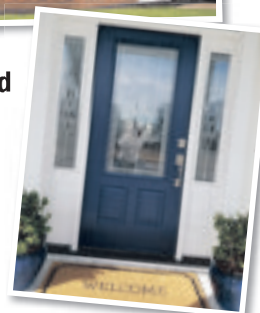
The latest hospital figures show that from April to August, 95 patients in Walsall were transferred to New Cross by ambulance, with 81 being confirmed as having suffered a stroke and 14 displaying symptoms similar to a stroke (stroke mimics). On average this equates to New Cross receiving 16 patients per month, or four a week, which is slightly lower than originally anticipated.

Since the service moved to Wolverhampton, two patients exhibiting non-emergency stroke/TIA symptoms were referred to Walsall Manor and upon arrival at the hospital both patients were immediately transferred to New Cross where they received the appropriate care.

West Midlands Ambulance Service has reinforced the agreed pathway with all operational staff and GP practices in Walsall, and will continue to monitor referrals in future as part of the CCG's 12-monthly clinical audit.

Walsall CCG Chief Officer, Professor Simon Brake said: "The transfer of services in April went very smoothly and there have not been any reported problems with the acute side of the pathway."

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Backlash on NHS Trust's pregnancy warning ads

AN NHS poster campaign warning teenagers against unwanted pregnancies has been branded as 'sexist' and 'outdated'.

Walsall Health Care NHS Trust ran a bus poster highlighting sexual health services available to young people.

But the ad, which showed the phrase 'would you give up this?' next to a pair of high heels and a red lipstick followed by 'for this?' next to a pink dummy, has been called 'misguided'.

Parents have criticised the ad, saying it suggests women have to give up lipstick and fancy shoes if they want a baby. Another ad shows the same phrase, but pictures a PlayStation controller next to a blue dummy.

Kirstie Young, aged 29, from Stourbridge, spotted the poster while travelling home from work on a National Express bus – and said she was 'gob-smacked'. She said: "It suggests that if you accidentally become pregnant you have to leave the lipsticks and heels behind. I couldn't believe it, it's so irresponsible. It's sexist because it doesn't understand women, it implies if you are a mother you have to give up certain things."

The posters also caused outrage on social media. Mother Samantha Breneman said: "Because I have kids am I supposed to not wear heels or have a fulfilling career? Missed the memo on that one." Maria Marz added: "I have a kid, wear heels, lipstick and play video games."

Nicola Wenlock, director of sexual health for the Trust, said: "In creating this particular advertising campaign, Walsall Integrated Sexual Health worked hard to understand the teenage pregnancy audience to make sure



One of the posters released by the trust



Apology – Nicola Wenlock



Another of the under fire posters



The Trust runs Walsall Manor Hospital

that the communication was relevant, effective and focused.

"We apologise if this advertisement has raised a concern, the intent was to raise awareness of emergency contraception and advice available for those in this age group who wish to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

"The campaign has played an im-

portant role in tackling teenage pregnancy and poor sexual health in our local area, which has been reducing steadily year on year."

The campaign finished on September 2 but had been run previously, with feedback from local teens. The Trust said no complaints had been received.

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• INSPECTION

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• COMPLETION

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Auntie play is awfully big draw

Tickets have been selling fast for the stage adaptation of David Walliams' book Awful Auntie, which comes to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this month.

Demand has been so great that an extra performance has been arranged. The additional show at 3pm on September 30 follows eight other performances of the play, beginning on September 26.

The show is being presented by Birmingham Stage Company, the group behind the award-winning West End production of Walliams' Gangsta Granny.

Awful Auntie tells the story of Stella, who sets off to visit London with her parents, Lord and Lady Saxby, without realising her life is in danger. Waking up three months later, only her Aunt Alberta can tell Stella what has happened. But can she be trusted? Stella is soon caught up in the fight of her life!

Sales of David Walliams' Awful Auntie book have now reached over a million copies, making the former Little Britain comedian and Britain's Got Talent judge one of the country's best-selling children's authors.

His books have been translated into more than 50 languages, bringing worldwide sales to more than 17 million, and three of his books have won the National Children's Book Awards.

Tickets for Awful Auntie can be bought online at www.grandtheatre.co.uk or by calling 01902 429212.

Kylie is fit and fabulous at 50, bringing her show to Brum



Kylie's new Golden age

It's been a remarkable year for Kylie.

The pint-sized chanteuse celebrated her 50th birthday in style, sang at the Queen's birthday party at the Royal Albert Hall and released a stunning new album, Golden, which went to number one in the UK and Australia.

The Aussie star is back with a new arena tour including a concert at Birmingham's Genting Arena tomorrow night (Friday).

Golden was largely written in Nashville,

Tennessee, where Kylie Minogue says she found new inspiration. She co-wrote each track, the first time she had done so since her Impossible Princess record of 1997.

The record followed the break-down of a recent relationship – though it was avowedly not a break-up record.

"The last thing I'd want is a breakup album," she says. "I was done with that. Through! Moved on! And I was so much happier to have moved on.

"It's about me and about where I find myself at this point in my life."

Kylie has embraced 50 in buoyant mood.

She says: "On Golden, the line I had in my head was 'we're not young, we're not old, we're golden.' We adapted it for the song. I was often asked 'how does it feel to be a woman your age in this industry?'" and I was just over it.

"For my own satisfaction, I wanted to be able to say that we just are who we are at any point in time."

Get Boogie Shoes on for Night Fever

Actor and dancer Richard Winsor, star of TV drama Casualty, will be stepping into John Travolta's dancing shoes when he takes on the role of Tony Manero in theatre mogul Bill Kenwright's new stage production of Saturday Night Fever.

The tour will call at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, September 25 to 29.

No doubt donning the iconic white suit, Winsor will be hitting the dancefloor in the story of a disco romeo who lives for the weekend.

The show is full of 70s hits from the all-time best-selling movie soundtrack including Boogie Shoes, Disco Inferno and Bee Gees hits Stayin' Alive, Tragedy, How Deep Is Your Love, Night Fever, More Than A Woman, Jive Talkin' and You Should Be Dancing.

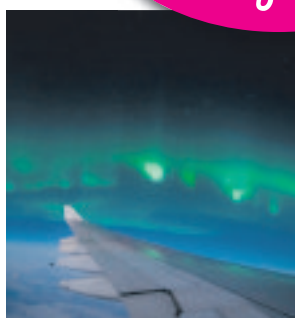
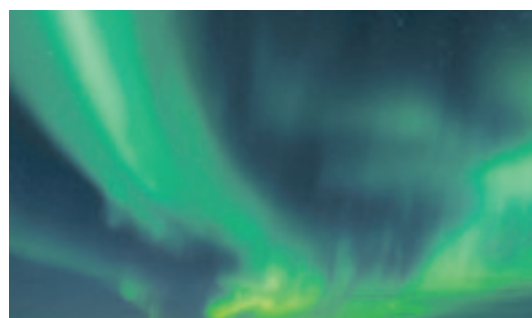
Opposite Winsor, who is a former member of Matthew Bourne's acclaimed dance company, will be Kate Parr as Stephanie Manero. Her stage credits include Follies at the National Theatre. There is a supporting cast with lots of West End experience between them.

Whilst paying homage to the movie, this new stage version promises more drama, more music and new choreography. It is directed and produced by Kenwright with choreography by Olivier Award-winning Bill Deamer. The stage adaptation is by Robert Stigwood with Bill Oakes.

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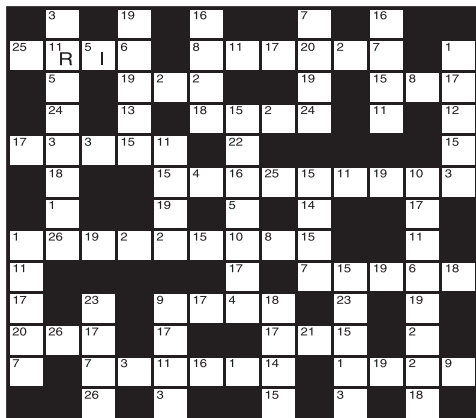
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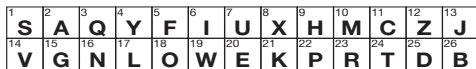


Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

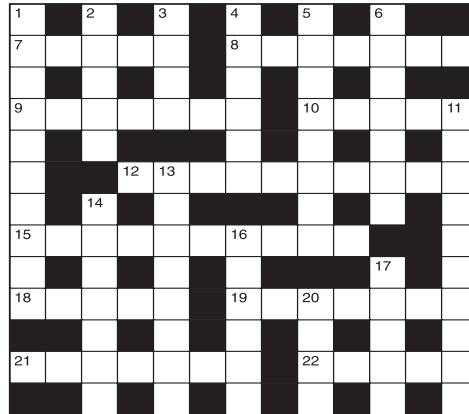
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Fruit of the melon variety (5)
8. Possible purse of plenty (7)
9. He escaped to become famous (7)
10. Different route further from the centre (5)
12. Not against change though it's the wrong condition for it (10)
15. Show little promise as a sculptor (5,5)
18. Loudly call out after a plea for silence (5)
19. Something a tanner will buy! (7)
21. Stops in crooked side streets (7)
22. A temple ornament? (5)

Down

1. They tried to extract gold from St. Michael's (10)
2. Affair of love in a rum setting (5)
3. It turns up after an opponent (4)
4. Water-bound (6)
5. One line future travellers may take (8)
6. Dock or rail cut reviewed (7)
11. Don't maintain a well-balanced pace? (3,4,3)
13. A trieste composition (8)
14. Brave child backed by the mother (7)
16. Stop doing wrong (6)
17. Put six on the vehicle for the clergyman (5)
20. Keep them about you for emergencies (4)



Quick Clues:

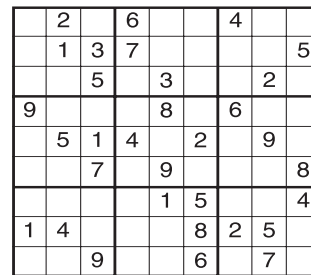
Across

7. Fat (5)
8. Joy (7)
9. Realm (7)
10. Vagrant (5)
12. Detail (10)
15. Trifling offence (10)
18. Recover (5)
19. Laborious (7)
21. Straddling (7)
22. Vision (5)

Down

1. Accountant (10)
2. Agency (5)
3. Lean (4)
4. Allow (6)
5. Of ships (8)
6. Maim (7)
11. Waywardness (10)
13. Resolution (8)
14. Assistant (7)
16. Idols (6)
17. Strong (5)
20. Elan (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Overseers; 8 Lee; 9 Reciprocate; 11 Rampage; 12 Piper; 13 Curare; 15 Ordain; 17 Limit; 18 Crackle; 20 Self-control; 22 Cue; 23 Stallions.
Down: 2 Vix; 3 Sepia; 4 Evoked; 5 Sharper; 6 Sleepwalker; 7 Rearrange; 10 Compromised; 11 Recollect; 14 Rattles; 16 Acacia; 19 Annul; 21 Own. QUICK - Across: 1 Knowledge; 8 Run; 9 Approximate; 11 Precede; 12 Thong; 13 Shindy; 15 Script; 17 Phial; 18 Brevity; 20 Antecedence; 22 Eat; 23 Desperate. Down: 2 Nip; 3 Loose; 4 Driver; 5 Elastic; 6 Premonition; 14 Dilated; 16 Abacus; 19 Endue; 21 Cut.

Quiz

1. How is a leucocyte more commonly known?
2. What is the name of the Russian space station visited by the shuttle Atlantis?
3. In which city was the first underground train line opened, in 1863?
4. What do the letters UHF stand for?
5. Which Virginian star lost his fight against cancer in 1995?
6. What is a jerboa?
7. What nationality was the pioneering sixteenth-century astronomer Tycho Brahe?
8. Which physician coined the word vaccination?
9. Which tribe did Crazy Horse lead?
10. Which aircraft safety device was invented by British engineer James Martin?

Last week's solutions:

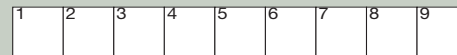
- Quiz: 1 Eland; 2 Kramer vs Kramer; 3 Succubus; 4 Seaweeds; 5 Walter de la Mare; 6 Czechoslovakia; 7 Whale; 8 Lazarus; 9 NATO; 10 George IV.
- Niner: CREDULITY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5727
578896
34319

gives a song,
gives a poem,
gives a saying.



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AT YOUR LEISURE

CHOICE



Claudia Winkleman (left)

Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1, 6.15pm)
The pro-celebrity dance contest makes its return to screens, two weeks after a special introductory programme announced this year's partnerships. Now though, the competition is ready to get under way, as head judge Shirley Ballas and her fellow panellists Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell get their first taste of what the dancing duos are capable of achieving. None of the 15 stars taking to the dance floor this weekend will be exiting this week, though. Instead, their scores will carry over to next weekend, when viewers get a chance to vote for their favourite couples.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Champions League of Darts. Coverage of four group-stage matches. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.25** Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a Strictly Come Dancing version of the general knowledge quiz, with contestants Katya Jones, Joe McEldan, Debbie McEee, Giovanni Pernice, Ore Oduba, Oti Mabuse, Lesley Joseph and AJ Pritchard. **6.15** **Strictly Come Dancing.** The pro-celebrity contest makes its return to screens, two weeks after a special introductory programme announced this year's partnerships. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present. **8.35** **Casualty.** Dylan is forced to treat Clara when she comes into the hospital suffering from abdominal pains. After looking at her symptoms he orders a pregnancy test, which comes back positive. Meanwhile, Iain secures Base a place in rehab, but on the way there, Base disappears, and Duffy makes doctor's appointment and gets Robyn to cover her. **9.25** **Killing Eve.** In the aftermath of her recent assignment, Villanelle is ordered to take a break, but she goes ahead with her next mission regardless. Meanwhile, after being fired by Frank for the debacle at the hospital, Eve is stunned to be presented with her dream opportunity – a secret, off-the-books department, a mission she is truly invested in, and the chance to build and lead her own team. Her target is Villanelle. Spy thriller, adapted for television by Phoebe Waller-Bridge and starring Jodie Comer and Sandra Oh. **10.10** **BBC News.** Weather. National Lottery Update. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Cardiff City v Manchester City at the Cardiff City Stadium and Liverpool v Southampton at Anfield. **12.00** The NFL Show. Mark Chapman is joined by former players Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present highlights of Thursday night's game – Cleveland Browns v New York Jets at FirstEnergy Stadium. **12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Top Class. (R) **7.00** Marrying Mum and Dad. (R) **7.30** All over the Place: Europe. (R) **8.00** The Designers. (R) **8.30** Absolute Genius with Dick & Dom. (R) **9.00** Planet Dinosaur. (R) **9.30** Elephant Diaries. (R) **10.00** The Animal's Guide to Britain. (R) **11.00** Natural World: Tiger Island. (R) **12.00** The Incredible Spice Men. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Scrappers – Back in the Yard. (R) **3.30** Saving Lives at Sea. (R) **4.30** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **5.00** Monkman & Seagull's Genius Guide to Britain. (R) **5.30** Ancient Invisible Cities. (R) **6.30** **PDC Champions League of Darts.** Caroline Barker presents coverage of four further group-stage matches from Brighton Centre, as the third staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players continues. This session will see the four winners from this afternoon's clashes face each other, while the four losers from those contests will be involved in the other games. **10.30** **Performance Live: Hofesh Shechter's Clowns.** Ore Oduba introduces the dance film, a macabre comedy of murder and desire, asking how far people will go in the name of entertainment. Directed, choreographed and composed by Hofesh Shechter, it combines bold, exhilarating and tribal movement by 10 dancers with a percussive, cinematic score. **11.00** **Film: Dancer.** (2016) Premiere. Documentary about Ukrainian dancer Sergei Polunin, who took the dance world by storm and became the Royal Ballet's youngest ever principal before walking away aged 22. **12.20** **Film: The Skin I Live In.** (2011) A plastic surgeon creates synthetic human skin that is indistinguishable from the real thing. However, nobody knows that he has accomplished this goal by experimenting on a woman he keeps as a hostage in his home – until his maid's criminal son invades the house, and secrets begin coming to light. Pedro Almodovar's thriller, starring Antonio Banderas and Elena Anaya. In Spanish. **2.10** Trust. As word of his grandson's kidnapping spreads, J Paul Getty sends his trusted fixer Fletcher Chase to Rome to investigate the disappearance. Crime drama, starring Donald Sutherland. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Cut the Rope: Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Spy School. (R) **8.55** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.40** The Island Group. (R) **12.10** ITV News. Weather. **12.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **2.30** WOS Wrestling. **3.30** Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** ITV News. Weather. **5.50** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.00** **Film: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.** (2004) The teenage wizard is alarmed to learn a dangerous fugitive sorcerer is searching for him. Meanwhile, a new teacher at Hogwarts helps the bespectacled youngster to protect himself from the school's soul-sucking security guards. The third in the fantasy adventure series, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Gary Oldman, David Thewlis, Michael Gambon, Robbie Coltrane and Alan Rickman. **8.35** **The X Factor.** The SSE Arena Wembley is the location as the audition rounds continue in the talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary. Judges Robbie Williams, Ayda Williams, Louis Tomlinson and Simon Cowell decide who goes through to the Six Chair Challenge, before the competition really heats up later in the year with the live shows. **9.50** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined by Brit award-winning singer Lily Allen, ahead of the release of her new autobiography, and actor Riz Ahmed, star of Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, Venom and The Night Of. Plus, Jonas Blue, who has platinum singles in more than 20 countries, will be performing his smash hit Rise. **10.55** **ITV News.** Weather. **11.15** **Film: Van Helsing.** (2004) A vampire player sets out to help a gypsy princess vanquish Count Dracula and his three brides once and for all. Gothic action adventure, starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Beckinsale. **1.20** Jackpot247. **3.00** Long Lost Family. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.25 Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.50** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.35** Frasier. (R) **9.05** Frasier. (R) **9.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Simpsons. (R) **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** The People's Vet. **5.35** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Britain at Low Tide.** Tom Herring explores more tales of Britain's rich maritime history, this time visiting the banks of the Clyde. In Glasgow, she finds evidence of a busy Iron Age waterway and an enormous wall built to channel the water, illustrating the complex relationship between the city and the river it was built upon. (R) **8.00** **Egypt's Great Pyramid: The New Evidence.** Documentary shedding light on a fresh discovery at the foot of Egypt's Great Pyramid, which may explain how the ancient Egyptians were capable of building such a vast structure without the aid of computers of complex machinery. At the base of the monument, archaeologists have uncovered a relic of Khufu, the pharaoh whose remains were interred in the Great Pyramid. What they found was a ceremonial boat, laid out in "flat-pack" form, which may prove to be the key in explaining the crucial role ships and water played in the pyramids' construction. (R) **9.00** **Film: Gods of Egypt.** (2016) Premiere. An ancient Egyptian god is driven into exile when his evil brother murders their father and seizes his throne. He enlists the aid of a human thief in restoring justice, and in return offers to help the mortal to bring his murdered lover back to life. Fantasy adventure, starring Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Brenton Thwaites, Gerard Butler and Chadwick Boseman. **11.25** **Film: 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi.** (2016) Fact-based action thriller, with John Krasinski. **2.00** Experimental. (R) **2.55** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.00** Vet on the Hill. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** The Wonderful World of Puppies. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.25** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **4.25** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **5.25** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **6.20** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** The debt collectors take action to serve a writ issued for the organiser of a music festival. (R) **7.05** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Agents Max and Steve in East London try to recover over £7,000 owed by a restaurant owner for an unpaid gas bill, while officers Gareth and Mitch in Gloucestershire seek just under £3,000 from the owner of a car wash. Stewart and Vic are in Manchester trying to recover nearly £5,000 owed by a blinds and shutters supplier to a dissatisfied customer. (R) **8.05** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Officers Gary and Cona chase up nearly £50,000 in unpaid rent, and Del and Max bid to collect more than £10,000 from a beauty salon for a disgruntled former employee. (R) **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **How the Victorians Built Britain.** Michael Buerk looks at the creation of mass manufacturing, which meant that goods could be produced at a rate that had never been seen before. In Manchester, he learns how engineer George Stephenson created the first intercity railway, so that cotton could be transported quickly and cheaply from Liverpool docks to Manchester's mills. Michael also discovers how the sewing machine – newly created in 1851 – created the rag trade, and visits what was probably the first shopping mall in the UK, the Burlington Arcade in London. Last in the series. **10.00** **The Forth Rail Bridge: Britain's Greatest Bridges.** Rob Bell reveals the story behind the construction of the Forth Rail Bridge and how its incredible engineering achievement was born from tragedy and paid for in blood. (R) **11.05** **Jack the Ripper: Missing Evidence.** (R) **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Britain by Bike with Larry & George Lamb. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Secrets of Our Living Planet **8.00** Big Cats **9.00** Mystery Road **10.50** Timeshift: Gaggling for It – TV's Hunger for Radio Comedy **11.50** Top of the Pops: 1986 **12.20** Great Guitars: Riffs at the BBC **1.20** Secrets of Our Living Planet **2.20** Big Cats **3.20** Close **ITV2**
12.00 You've Been Framed! Gold **12.55** Film: Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003) **1.55** FYI Daily **2.00** Film: Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003) **2.40** The X Factor **3.45** Film: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **4.50** FYI Daily **4.55** Film: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **5.35** Film: Battleship (2012) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50** Film: Battleship (2012) **8.00** Film: Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15** Film: Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008) **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records: Bunkingly Big Than Never **1.55** Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
3.05 Film: Carry On Camping (1969) **4.55** Lewis **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** On the Buses **2.00** ITV4 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
12.00 Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Ayr **4.15** World Cup Top Goalscorers **4.30** Pawn Stars **5.55** Film: Where Eagles Dare (1968) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00** Film: Where Eagles Dare (1968) **9.00** Film: Rocky IV (1985) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Rocky IV (1985) **11.05** Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.25** Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **1.00** Better Late Than Never **1.55** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
12.05 The Goldbergs **1.05** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** The Great British Bake Off **4.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **5.15** Extreme Cake Makers **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Die Hard 2 (1990) **11.25** Gogglebox **1.30** Rude Tube **2.30** Gogglebox **3.25** Celebs Go Dating **4.15** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **Film4**
11.00 The Indian in the Cupboard (1995) **1.00** Capture the Flag (2015) **2.50** Megamind (2010) **4.45** Cocoon (1985) **7.00** X-Men (2000) **9.00** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013) **11.45** The Transporter (2002) **1.30** Crimson Peak (2015) **3.55** Close

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✓ Pantomime ticket

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CHOICE



Richard Madden

Bodyguard (BBC1, 9pm)
David makes a major breakthrough as he goes in search of the truth behind the attack on Julia. However, his interference in the case has placed him in mortal danger, and he comes to realise that there is no one left who believes his story. With time rapidly running out, he faces a battle to prove his innocence in the face of mounting evidence against him. Jed Mercurio's six-part political thriller comes to a conclusion with an extended final episode. Starring Richard Madden, Gina McKee and Nina Toussaint-White. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.30** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.30** Sunday Morning Live. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. **1.15** Hold the Sunset. (R) **1.45** Hold the Sunset. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Points of View. **3.15** Songs of Praise. **3.50** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.50** Shop Well for Less? (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.35** BBC News.

7.00 **Regional Programme.**

7.00 **Countryfile.** Matt Baker and Anita Rani present coverage of the 2018 One Man and His Dog contest from the village of Llansteffan, south Wales, featuring teams from England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland, each comprised of a veteran shepherd and a child in training. Anita also takes a trip on a ferry across the Tywi estuary and discovers how cockles are one of the area's richest natural resources. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce visits the Parliament Buildings at Stormont Estate in Belfast, which has played a huge role in Northern Ireland's political history. An unloved muffin dish holds a surprise and Justin Croft spots an unread copy of Ulysses by James Joyce. John Foster delves underground into Belfast's 18th-century water system with an old wooden water pipe, while Adam Schoon meets a man with a phenomenal George Best collection.

9.00 **Bodyguard.** David has made a major breakthrough in his investigation, but his search for the truth has placed him in danger and he faces a fight to prove his innocence. Last in the series.

10.15 BBC News.

10.35 Regional Programme.

10.45 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman presents highlights of the day's two Premier League fixtures – West Ham United v Chelsea at the London Stadium and Arsenal v Everton at the Emirates Stadium.

11.45 **The Women's Football Show.** A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.

12.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** PDC Champions League of Darts. Coverage of the concluding group-stage matches from Brighton Centre, as the third staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players continues. **4.30** World Equestrian Games. **5.30** Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In? (R) **6.30** **PDC Champions League of Darts.** Caroline Barker presents coverage of the semi-finals and final from Brighton Centre, as the players to have progressed through the group stage hope to claim the £100,000 first prize. These matches will take place over the best of 21 legs, as the winner of the third staging of this tournament is set to be decided.

10.00 **Mock the Week.** Host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis are joined by guests Ed Byrne, Ed Gamble, Kerry Godliman, Nish Kumar and Rachel Parris. (R) **10.30** **No Activity.** Stokes has had to go back to the station for a chat about the shooting incident, so Hendy is joined by an American detective. Carol shares romantic reminiscences with April.

10.55 **No Activity.** After weeks of surveillance, the drugs bust finally gets underway. However, Hendy is frustrated that he and Stokes are too far from the action. Last in the series.

11.20 **The Mighty Redcar.** Netball prodigy Sally has been awarded a partial scholarship – but her mum still needs to find some of the money. Bean and Tom face a big decision when a job offer comes their way. (R) **12.05** American Justice. When he was 12 years old, Sharron Townsend was arrested for shooting a homeless man in the head. Now aged 14, he is facing justice. As this edition reveals, in Florida, children can be transferred to adult courts at the discretion of the State Attorney, so there is no upper limit on Sharron's sentence. Cameras also follow Jeremiah Hill, who shot a man during a gun trade when he was 13 years old. Now the justice system must decide how best to protect society. (R) **1.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Cut the Rope: Om Nom Stories. **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Spy School. (R) **8.55** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Cannonball. (R) **10.20** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **11.20** WDS Wrestling. (R) **12.20** The X Factor. (R) **1.35** ITV News: Weather. **1.45** £10k Holiday Home. (R) **2.15** Emmerdale 1918. (R) **2.45** Catchphrase. (R) **3.30** Tenable. (R) **4.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.30** The Chase. (R) **6.30** **ITV News: Weather.**

6.45 **Regional Programme: Weather.**

7.00 **5 Gold Rings.** Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which two siblings and a team of firemen compete to answer visual questions by placing rings on an LED floor. Viewers can play along using the series app.

8.00 **The X Factor.** The audition rounds continue in the talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary, with judges Robbie Williams, Ayda Williams, Louis Tomlinson and Simon Cowell deciding who goes through.

9.00 **Vanity Fair.** The battle of Waterloo gets underway, with George fighting in the thick of it. Amelia fears for her husband's life, while Jos is far more worried about himself, despite being miles from the front line. Becky sees an opportunity to make a profit from the chaos of war by selling Rawdon's horses – knowing that the cowardly Jos will pay her anything for a way to escape.

10.05 **The Imitation Game.** Alexander Armstrong hosts the panel show, with Rory Bremner, Debra Stephenson, Luke Kempner and Kate Robbins performing a spoof of Downton Abbey and finding a date for Kim Woodburn.

10.45 **ITV News: Weather.**

11.05 **Joanna Lumley's Silk Road Adventure.** Joanna Lumley follows the Silk Road from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, travelling across the post-Soviet states of Georgia and Azerbaijan. (R) **12.05** Strangers. (R) **12.55** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motorsport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Film: ParaNorman. (2012) **3.20** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Grand Designs. (R)

6.35 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **Cruises from Hell: Caught on Camera.** A cautionary roll-call of nautical nightmares demonstrating what can happen when people venture out on water. From vast cruise ships and ferries pounded by extraordinary weather, to near-death experiences on board vessels that catch fire and sink, the documentary reveals incredible moments, as told by the survivors, while psychologists discuss the seaborne anxieties people could experience on vessels ranging from the largest ships to small canoes. (R)

8.00 **Battle of Britain: Model Squadron.** The modellers reach Battle of Britain Day – 15 September 1940, when the RAF threw everything at the massed squadrons of Luftwaffe that were trying to attack London. It was on this day that Douglas Bader's controversial tactic, the Big Wing, was successfully deployed as five squadrons flew together in tight formation. The RAF modellers must try to bring to life a model Big Wing, getting all of their planes in the sky at once and flying in formation before their final dogfight with the model Luftwaffe. Last in the series.

9.00 **Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls.** The castaways efforts to catch fish have yielded no results over the first 10 days on the island, so Montana Brown and Anthony Ogogo change tactics by going hunting for meat.

10.00 **The Circle.** Series assessing the impact of social media, in which individuals from all walks of life compete in a popularity contest to win up to £50,000.

11.00 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts. (R)

12.00 Film: Queen and Country. (2014) **2.05** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **2.30** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **3.25** Grand Designs Australia. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **6.30** Luo Bao Bei. (R) **6.40** Dinby Dragon. (R) **6.50** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.00** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.30** Rusty Rivets. **7.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.25** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.00** Pirata & Capitano. **9.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.30** Floogals. (R) **9.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.55** Friends. (R) **12.25** Friends. (R) **12.55** Friends. (R) **1.25** Friends. (R) **1.55** Friends. (R) **2.25** Friends. (R) **2.55** Friends. (R) **3.25** Friends. (R) **3.55** Friends. (R) **4.20** Friends. (R) **4.50** Film: Along Came Polly. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston. **5.50** Access. **5.55** Film: Along Came Polly. (2004) Concluded.

6.30 **Film: King Kong.** (2005) Maverick film-maker Carl Denham and his cast and crew board a ship bound for a mysterious island – but when they arrive, a giant gorilla carries off their leading lady, Ann Darrow. As the crew makes its way through the teeming jungle to find her, the director concocts a dangerous scheme to capture the great ape and take it back to New York. Peter Jackson's remake of the fantasy adventure, starring Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrien Brody and Andy Serkis, in a dual role as the ship's cook and motion-captured creature. Edited for language, violence and tone.

7.30 **5 News Update.**

7.35 **Film: King Kong.** (2005) Concluded.

9.55 **5 News Weekend.**

10.00 **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

11.30 **20 Moments That Rocked Britain.** Documentary looking back at major news events from the past 40 years that made a lasting impression on the British public. (R)

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** HMS Victory: Nelson's Great Warship. (R) **4.00** Tribal Teens. (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** House Doctor. (R) **5.35** Great Artists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Leeds International Piano Competition 2018 **8.30** What Do Artists Do All Day? **9.00** James May's Cars of the People **10.00** Roman Britain: A Timewatch Guide **11.00** Roger Bannister: Everest on the Track **12.00** The Last Explorers **1.00** Treasures of Ancient Greece **2.00** Pappano's Classical Voices **3.00** James May's Cars of the People **4.00** Close

ITV2

1.55 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15** Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.55** The X Factor **4.10** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **6.00** Film: The LEGO Movie (2014) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10** Film: The LEGO Movie (2014) **8.00** Film: Quantum of Solace (2008) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** Film: Quantum of Solace (2008) **10.10** Family Guy **11.35** American Dad! **12.35** The Cleveland Show **1.05** Ghosted **1.25** Release the Hounds **2.25** Teleshopping

ITV3

2.55 Film: Columbo Goes to the Guillotine (1989) **4.50** Foyle's War **9.00** The Good Karma Hospital **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.05** A Touch of Frost **2.55** Road to Avonlea **4.35** Judge Judy

ITV4

1.50 Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55** Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **3.40** Film: Where Eagles Dare (1968) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45** Film: Where Eagles Dare (1968) **6.50** Film: Tobruk (1967) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55** Film: Tobruk (1967) **9.00** Film: Rocky V (1990) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Rocky V (1990) **11.10** Film: Source Code (2011) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: Source Code (2011) **1.00** The Protectors **1.35** Minder **2.35** British Touring Cars – Crashes and Smashes **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.15 The Goldbergs **1.20** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.20** Young Sheldon **3.20** The Big Bang Theory **6.50** Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) **9.00** Krypton **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** Tattoo Fixers: Extreme **1.10** The Inbetweeners **2.15** Krypton

Film4

1.00 Stuart Little 2 (2002) **2.35** The House of Magic (2013) **4.20** The Jewel of the Nile (1985) **6.40** Suffragette (2015) **9.00** The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 (2014) **11.20** The Sweeney (2012) **1.35** No (2012) **4.00** Close

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

Refurbished home in desirable area is close to school

A recently refurbished modern family home in one of the area's most desirable roads close to King George V playing fields, 28 Stafford Road, Bloxwich is also close to the Walsall Academy School.

Internally the property has been renovated to an excellent standard with the stand-out feature being a newly-fitted contemporary style Howdens kitchen with quartz work surfaces. The home also has a luxury re-fitted bathroom.

This four-bedroomed detached house is for sale through Goodchilds estate agents at £315,000.

Overall the property offers deceptively spacious living accommodation including a main lounge, a dining room, a breakfast kitchen, four good sized bedrooms and a luxuriously re-fitted bathroom.

In addition the property has parking via a gated access from Frances Drive, a double garage and mature front and rear gardens.

In more detail the entrance hall has stairs off to the first floor, an under stairs storage area and wooden flooring.

The lounge is an attractive space, having a double glazed bow window to the front.

Currently being used as a dining room, the dining room/play room, has potential for use as a study, a playroom or a second lounge.

The hub of the home is an impressive contemporary-style Howdens fitted kitchen with quartz working surfaces, a breakfast bar, integrated appliances and tiled flooring.

Accessed from within the garage, the laundry room is a useful space with plumbing for a washing machine.

Upstairs, the first floor landing has exposed timber flooring and loft access.

Bedroom one is a generous sized master bedroom.

BLOXWICH £315,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Goodchilds Estate Agents

TEL: 01922 711444

EMAIL: bloxwich@goodchilds-uk.com

KEY FEATURES

Recently refurbished
4 bedroomed detached
New Howdens kitchen
Luxury re-fitted bathroom
Desirable road



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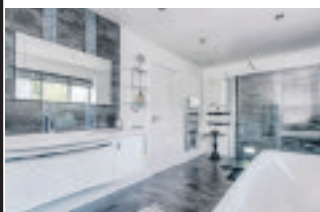
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NEW

Lichfield Road, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall



EPC 0

- Executive Detached
- Individual Build
- Through Hall, Conservatory
- Kitchen/Diner
- 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- En-Suite, NHBC
- Garage with Utility area
- Brick Built Games Room

\$439,950

NEW

Mallard Close, Pelsall, Walsall
Pelsall, Walsall



EPC 0

- Sought After Location
- Detached Home
- Hall, Lounge
- Dining Room, Conservatory
- Kitchen, WC
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Gardens, Garage
- Viewing Recommended

\$255,000

NEW

Wolverhampton Road, Pelsall, Walsall
Pelsall, Walsall



EPC 0

- Extended Semi
- Generous Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Refitted Bathroom
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Gardens
- Rear Driveway
- Viewing Recommended

\$159,950

NEW

Stafford Road, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall



EPC 0

- Spacious Home
- Popular Location
- Hallway, Lounge
- Dining Room, Kitchen
- Utility Room, WC
- 2 Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- NO CHAIN

\$139,950

NEW

Mulberry Road, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall



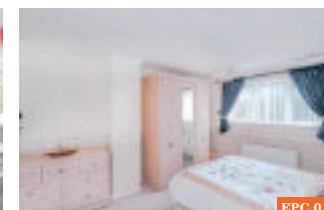
EPC 0

- Modern Semi Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Gardens
- Driveway
- Viewing Essential

\$140,000 OFFERS OVER

NEW

Matlock Close, Walsall
Walsall



EPC 0

- Semi Detached
- Hall, Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom, WC
- Gardens
- Viewing Recommended
- No Chain

\$140,000 Offers Over

NEW

Squires Grove, New Invention, Willenhall
New Invention, Willenhall



EPC 0

- Motivated Sale
- Modern Apartment
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms, En-Suite
- Shower Room, Bathroom
- Allocated Parking
- No Chain

\$100,000

NEW

Stafford Road, Great Wyrley, Walsall
Great Wyrley, Walsall



EPC 0

- Traditional Semi
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Shower Room
- Rear Garden
- Viewing Recommended

\$140,000 OFFERS OVER

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46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



WILLENHALL



WOLVEHAMPTON RD WEST,
Victorian three Bed Semi, Lounge, Rear Reception Rooms, Generous Kitchen/ Diner, Cellar/ Bar, Loft Room With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Substantial Detached Brick Workshop

OIRO £350,000

ESSINGTON



LONG LANE, ESSINGTON
Extended Three Bed Detached, Generous Lounge/ Diner, Extended Kitchen/Diner, First Floor Family Shower Room, Part D/G & Full C/H, Secure Off Road Parking, Landscaped Rear Garden, Fantastic Location

OIEO £250,000



BIRCHDALE, BILSTON
Individually Designed Three Bed Detached Dormer Style Bungalow Having Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Ground Floor W.C., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/G, C/H, Garage & Driveway

O.I.E.O £220,000

WILLENHALL



DOVEDALE AVE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached, Two Reception Rooms, Modern Refitted Kitchen, Open Plan Conservatory/ Kitchen, Three Double Bedrooms, Refitted Family Bathroom Great Extension Potential SSTP

OIEO £210,000

WEDNESFIELD



LINTHOUSE LANE, W/TON
Fully Refurbished Three Bed Semi, Through Lounge, Conservatory, Modern Refitted Kitchen, Stylish Refitted Shower Room, Separate W.C., New Carpets Throughout, C/ Heating & D/Glazing, Private Rear Garden

OIEO £185,000

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AVON DRIVE, WILLENHALL



Modern Three Bed Semi Having Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Ground Floor W.C., Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing & C/Heating, Garage & Driveway, No Chain

£170,000

KEWSTOKE RD, WILLENHALL



Well Presented Two Bed Semi-Detached Property Having Lounge, Fitted kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms With Fitted Wardrobes, Modern Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Detached Garage And Driveway

O.I.E.O £145,000

SHORT HEATH



COPPICE LANE, WILLENHALL
Refurbished Three Bed Mid Town House, Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Modern Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing & C/Heating, New Carpets Throughout, Front & Rear Garden, Canalside Access

OIEO £130,000

ST THOMAS LAWNS



YALE ROAD, WILLENHALL
Modern Two Bed First Floor Apartment, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, D/ Glazing & C/ Heating, Allocated Parking, Popular Location, Ideal FTB Or BTL

£90,000

WEDNESFIELD



MERRICK ROAD, WEDNESFIELD
One Bed First Floor Flat, Fully Refurbished, Refitted Modern Kitchen, Family Bathroom, C/ Heating & D/Glazing, Rear Garden

OIEO £75,000

LANE HEAD



HIGH ROAD, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid Terrace, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Area, First Floor Shower Room, Gas Central Heating, Majority UPVC Double Glazing, Ideal BTL Or FTB

OIEO £75,000

BILSTON



WILLENHALL RD, W/TON
Immaculate Three Bed Semi, Lounge, Dining Room, Open Plan Kitchen, Conservatory, Modern Refitted Shower Room, D/ Glazing & C/Heating, Garage, Private Rear Garden, Block Paved Driveway

OIEO £175,000

BENTLEY



CONDOVER CLOSE, WALSALL
Four Bed Semi Detached, lounge, Kitchen/Diner, En-Suite Ground Floor Bedroom, Family Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpet & Off Road Parking, Offers Great Potential, Cul-De-Sac Location

OIEO £150,000

WEDNESFIELD



GILBERT CLOSE, W/TON
Extended Two Bed Semi, Lounge & Sitting Room, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Study/ Office, Feature Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing & G C/Heating, Garage

OIRO £140,000

POOL HAYES



CHATSWORTH CLOSE, W/HALL
Modern Two Bed Semi, Lounge With Open Staircase, Stylish Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, D/ Glazing C/Heating, Detached Garage, EPC Rating, D,D

OIEO £110,000

BENTLEY



GRENVILLE CLOSE, WALSALL
One Bed First Flat Having Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating & A Garage In A Separate Block. Ideal Investment Or FTB

£70,000

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27

The Chronicle Thursday, September 20, 2018

NO CHAIN

Werneth Grove, Turnberry Estate

- Extended Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Main Lounge
- Sitting Room and Dining Area
- Conservatory
- EPC - C (73)

£320,000

NEW

Stafford Road, Bloxwich

- Refurbished Detached House
- Four Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Good Sized Lounge
- Dining Room
- EPC - E (53)

£315,000

Stafford Road, Bloxwich

- Four Bedroom Detached Home
- En-Suite to the Master Bedroom
- Close to Shops and the Walsall Academy
- Double Garage & Parking
- Access via Frances Drive
- EPC - D (58)

£310,000

NO CHAIN

Camborne Road, Park Hall

- Detached Family Home
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Two Reception Rooms
- Close to Park Hall School
- EPC - D (64)

£260,000

Harvest Grove, Bloxwich

- Three Storey Town House
- Four Bedrooms
- Driveway for 2 Cars and Dressing Area & En-Suite to Master
- Built in 2014
- EPC - B (84)

£239,950

REDUCED

Astbury Close, Turnberry Estate

- Modern Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Block Paved Driveway
- Entrance Hallway & Guest WC
- EPC - D (65)

£205,000

Eastbourne Street, Walsall

- Spacious Three Storey House
- Three/Four Bedrooms
- Garage & Car Port
- Beautiful Rear Garden
- Kitchen/Diner
- EPC - D (64)

£187,500

Allens Lane, Pelsall

- Extended Traditional Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Rear Access Road
- Regular Public Transport
- Off Road Parking
- EPC - D (62)

£184,950

Harvest Grove, Bloxwich

- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Three Bedrooms
- 0.5 Miles from Walsall Academy
- Built in 2014 by Kendrick Homes
- Remaining NHBC Guarantee
- EPC - B (83)

O.I.E.O £170,000

NO CHAIN

Links Court, Turnberry Estate

- Exclusive Over 60's Development
- One Bedroomed Apartment
- Parking Space Included
- Luxury Fixtures and Fittings
- Ground Floor
- EPC - B (82)

£169,950

NEW

Enville Close, Turnberry Estate

- Delightful Semi-Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Driveway for Two Cars
- Popular Turnberry Location
- Refitted Bathroom
- EPC - TBC

£150,000

NEW

Tame Street, West Bromwich

- 'The Canford' by Taylor Wimpey
- Two Bedrooms
- Ground Floor WC
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- Private Rear Garden
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EPC - C (75)

£140,000

NO CHAIN

Smiths Flour Mill, Walsall

- Gated Smiths Flour Mill Development
- Secure Gated Entrance
- Allocated Parking Space
- Close to Walsall Town Centre
- Two Bedroom Upper Floor Apartment
- EPC - D (65)

£110,000

NO CHAIN

Elmsdale Court, Walsall Town

- Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Brand New Fitted Kitchen
- Integrated Appliances
- Luxuriously Fitted Bathroom
- EPC - D (62)

£100,000

NO CHAIN

Smiths Flour Mill, Walsall Town

- Modern 1st Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-suite
- Secure Allocated Parking
- Ideal Buy-to-Let (£575pcm Currently Let)
- EPC - D (63)

£95,000

Foster Street, Blakenall

- Sold By Modern Method of Auction
- Two Bedroom Detached Victorian House
- Ideal Investment Opportunity
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- EPC - E (53)

Guide Price £73,000

NO CHAIN

Walker Road, Blakenall

- Two Bedroom 2nd Floor Apartment
- Large Open Plan Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Family Bathroom
- EPC - C (80)

£85,000

NO CHAIN

Springhill Court, Sutton Road

- Two Bedroom Town Centre Flat
- Second Floor
- Communal Parking
- Very Good Condition Throughout
- Double Glazing & Electric Heating
- EPC - F (31)

O.I.E.O £80,000

NO CHAIN

Sheridan Close, Bescot

- Two Bedroom Bungalow
- Available to Over 55's
- Cul-de-sac Location
- Communal Gardens
- Communal Parking Area
- EPC - C (69)

£78,000

NO CHAIN

Walker Road, Blakenall

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- EPC - B (83)

£75,000

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The Avenue, Wednesbury,

- Two bedrooms
- Double glazing
- No upward chain
- Allocated parking
- Juliet balcony
- Secure communal entrance

£75,000

Hawbush Road, Walsall,

- An ideal investment
- Three bedrooms
- Popular location
- In need of modernisation
- Close to local amenities
- A must see

£80,000

Planetree Road, Walsall,

- Four bedrooms
- South facing garden
- Master with en suite
- Large lounge
- Separate dining room
- Kitchen with utility room

£290,000

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Manorhouse Close, Walsall,

- Two bedrooms
- No upward chain
- Modern apartment block
- Attention investors and first time buyers
- Master with en suite

£110,000

Woodside Way, Willenhall,

- Modern semi-detached home
- Re-styled kitchen
- Re-styled bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Cul de sac
- Enclosed rear garden

£160,000

Gomer Street, Willenhall,

- Two bedrooms
- Fantastic rental yield
- Perfect investment
- Lengthy lease
- No upward chain
- A must see

£60,000

Broadmeadow Lane, Great Wyrley,

- Modern detached
- Large conservatory
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Corner plot
- Well presented throughout
- A must see

£199,995

Dorsett Road, Wednesbury,

- Three huge bedrooms
- Massive enclosed rear garden
- Large layout
- Very good condition
- Ideal family home
- Quiet road

£150,000

Valleyside, Pelsall,

- Detached home
- Garage
- Four bedrooms
- Huge kitchen
- Ample living space
- Off road parking

£299,995

Birchfields, Willenhall,

- Three bedrooms
- Large garden
- Garage
- In need of some modernisation
- No upward chain
- A must see for any family

£199,995

Wood Green Road, Wednesbury,

- Huge property
- Large bedrooms
- Opposite park
- High ceilings
- Downstairs WC
- A must see for any family

£260,000

Wharfedale Street, Wednesbury,

- Three bedrooms
- Close to Wednesbury centre
- Very presentable throughout
- Ideal access routes
- Enclosed rear garden
- Perfect first time buy

£130,000

Aster Way, Walsall,

- Detached
- Garage
- Three bedrooms
- Spacious living space
- Ideal family home
- Popular residential location

£199,995

Willenhall Street, Wednesbury,

- Ideal investment opportunity
- Two bedrooms
- Perfect first time buy
- Close to local amenities
- Ample living space
- Enclosed rear garden

£125,000

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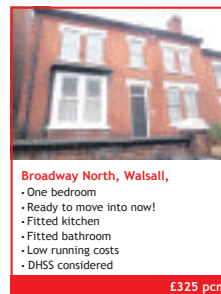


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- Fountains Road, Walsall,**
- Two bedrooms
 - Two reception rooms
 - Fitted kitchen
 - Off road parking
 - Family bathroom
 - Popular locatoin

£495 pcm



- Broadway North, Walsall,**
- One bedroom
 - Ready to move into now!
 - Fitted kitchen
 - Fitted bathroom
 - Low running costs
 - DHSS considered

£325 pcm



- Blakenall Lane, Walsall,**
- Ready to move now!
 - Rear garden
 - Fitted kitchen and bathroom
 - Large living area
 - DHSS accepted
 - A must see!

£525 pcm



- Cross Street, Willenhall,**
- Ready now!
 - Discounted fees
 - Fitted kitchen
 - Fitted bathroom
 - Deposit on application
 - One bedroom

£325 pcm



- Old Park Road, Wednesbury,**
- Available now!
 - Ample off road parking
 - Short term let only
 - Large rear garden
 - Fitted kitchen
 - Garage

£725 pcm



- Memory Lane, Wednesbury,**
- Three bedrooms
 - Semi-detached
 - Close to local amenities
 - Off road parking
 - Ideal transport access
 - A must see!

£595 pcm



- Springhead, Wednesbury,**
- One bedroom
 - Ideal central Wednesbury location
 - Over two floors
 - Close to local transport links
 - Amenities within walking distance
 - A must see!

£340 pcm



- Foster Street, Walsall,**
- Close to local transport links
 - Low running costs
 - Ready now!
 - Two good sized bedrooms
 - Guarantors may be required
 - Fitted kitchen and bathroom

£550 pcm



- Stafford Street, Willenhall,**
- Two bedroom apartment
 - Town centre location
 - Low running costs
 - Large living area
 - Ready to move now!
 - Fitted kitchen

£475 pcm



- Hillary Street, Walsall,**
- Three bedrooms
 - Fitted kitchen
 - Two reception rooms
 - Downstairs fitted bathroom
 - Upstairs fitted bathroom
 - Close to local amenities

£595 pcm



- Squires Grove, Willenhall,**
- Two large bedroom
 - Coming soon
 - Huge lounge/diner
 - En suite bathroom
 - Fully fitted kitchen area
 - Modern block

£550 pcm



- Reservoir Street, Walsall,**
- Recently refurbished
 - Rear garden
 - Close to local amenities
 - Great transport routes
 - Off road parking
 - Finished to a high standard

£600 pcm

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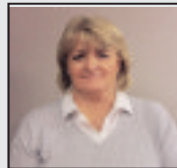


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Paul Marrion - Partner



Kathy Marrion - Partner

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Energy Rating - D

NEW

Alton Avenue Willenhall

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge,
- Dining room, kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms,
- Shower room/WC
- Parking and Gardens

£150,000



Energy Rating-D

NEW

Broad Lane Essington

- Extended Detached House
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Extended Rear Lounge, conservatory, Fitted kitchen
- Study/music room,
- 3 double bedrooms (master with en-suite)
- Family bathroom
- Garage, Driveway and gardens

£250,000



Energy Rating-tbc

NEW

Bealeys Close Bloxwich

- Modern Detached Family Home
- Gas Central Heating, PVCu Double Glazing
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room
- Four Good Sized Bedrooms,
- Ensuite, Jack and Jill Shower Room
- Family Bathroom, 2 x Garage
- Driveway, Rear Garden

£380,000



Energy Rating - C

NEW

Fordbrook Lane Pelsall

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge,
- Dining room, kitchen
- 5 Bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway,
- Gardens

£465,000



Energy Rating - B

REDUCED

Portsea Street Walsall

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Gas Central Heating, Solar Panels
- PVCu Double Glazing
- Front Lounge, Dining Room,
- Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom/wc
- Two Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Driveway, Rear Garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£110,000



Energy Rating - D

REDUCED

Wetherby Road Bloxwich

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Detached garage,
- Driveway, garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£190,000



Energy Rating-D

TO LET

Blakenall Lane Leamore

- OVER 50's ONLY
- 3 x One bedroom apartment
- Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- Lounge, Bedroom
- Shower Room/WC
- DSS Considered,
- Sorry no Pets or Smokers
- £180 reference fee applies

£475



Energy Rating - C

TO LET

Crown Lofts Walsall

- Attractive duplex apartment
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Lounge/dining room,
- kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, shower room/WC
- SORRY NO DSS, PETS OR SMOKERS
- £180 including VAT reference fees apply

£575



Energy Rating-D

TO LET

Booth Street Bloxwich

- Traditional Semi-Detached House
- Corner Plot,
- Recently Renovated
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Large Driveway
- SORRY NO PETS, DSS OR SMOKERS
- £180 including VAT reference fees apply

£575



Energy Rating - C

TO LET

Beaconsfield Court Walsall

- Spacious first floor flat
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Communal gardens, parking
- SORRY NO DSS, PETS OR SMOKERS
- £180 including VAT reference fee applies

£600



Energy rating-TBC

TO LET

73 Lichfield Road Bloxwich

- Inclusive of all bills
- Detached bungalow
- Gas central heating, Double glazing
- Lounge/kitchenette
- Double bedroom, bathroom/WC
- Parking, garden
- SORRY NO DSS, PETS OR SMOKERS
- £180 including VAT reference fee applies

£700



Energy Rating-E

TO LET

Woodbridge Close Bloxwich

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen, conservatory
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, utility, gardens
- SORRY NO DSS, PETS OR SMOKERS
- £180 reference fees apply

£795



Energy Rating - B

Woodcroft Court Walsall

- A well presented 'Penthouse Style' 2nd floor apartment
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Spacious lounge with kitchen area off
- Double bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Communal gardens
- Viewing Highly Recommended

£65,000



Energy Rating - D

Roebuck Road Walsall

- Mid terrace house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room,
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms,
- Shower room/WC
- Driveway and garden

£125,000



Energy Rating - D

Kenilworth Crescent Walsall

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Kitchen, Lounge
- 2 bedrooms,
- Bathroom/WC
- Parking and garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£125,950



Energy Rating-C

NEW

Smiths Flour Mill Walsall

- Penthouse apartment
- Central Walsall Location
- Lounge Area
- Kitchen diner Area
- 2 bedrooms,
- Bathroom/WC
- Secure off road parking
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£132,500



Energy Rating-

NEW

Squires Grove Willenhall

- Modern End Town House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner,
- Cloak Room/W.C
- Two Double Bedrooms (both with en-suite)
- Driveway & Rear Garden

£140,000



Energy Rating - E

Dartmouth Avenue Walsall

- Detached Family Home
- Gas Central Heating & PVCu Double Glazing
- Modern Open plan Lounge/ Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs Cloakroom/wc
- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage. NO ONWARD CHAIN

£180,000



Energy Rating - C

Stamping Way Bloxwich

- Three storey end town house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, Kitchen /Diner,
- 4 Double Bedrooms,
- Family Bathroom/WC
- En-suite/Jack & Jill Shower Room
- Single Garage, Driveway

£190,000



Energy Rating - D

Pine Close Great Wyrley

- Link detached bungalow
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazing
- Kitchen, lounge
- 2 double bedrooms,
- Shower room/WC
- Single car garage,
- Driveway, gardens

£230,000



Energy Rating - E

Stafford Road Great Wyrley

- Traditional Cottage style detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Farmhouse kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Driveway, garden
- outbuildings

£250,000



Energy Rating - D

Thornbury Road Walsall

- Detached House
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen
- 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- bathroom/WC
- Garage, drive, gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£294,995



Energy Rating - D

Hall Lane Pelsall

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway
- Gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£350,000



Energy Rating - D

Station Road Pelsall

- Individually Designed Detached Family Home.
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- 4 Bedroom (Master with en-suite)
- Lounge, Dining Room,
- Breakfast Kitchen, Utility
- Study / 5th Bedroom
- Garage & Driveway
- Rear Garden

£375,000



Energy Rating - C

Nest Common Pelsall

- Detached House
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Lounge, study
- kitchen, utility
- 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- 2 car garage
- driveway, gardens

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LOT 3

**Chepstow Road
Bloxwich**

21st September 10am, 27th September 3pm



●Guide Price £70,000 PLUS

This modern semi detached property will make an ideal buy to let situated in a popular residential area within easy access of Bloxwich town centre. With gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation.

LOT 4

**Hawbush Road
Walsall**

26th September 10:45am



●Guide Price £69,000 PLUS

This considerably improved gas centrally heated and double glazed semi detached property is of non standard construction but has been modified in recent years and would make an ideal buy to let. Buyers are advised to read the mining report. Conveniently situated.

LOT 5

**Earl Street
Walsall**

21st September 3pm, 28th September 11am



●Guide Price £170,000 PLUS

This substantial Victorian mid terraced property is situated in a desirable location with all amenities close at hand. Benefiting from gas central heating and uPVC double glazing, the property has a refitted kitchen and bathroom and offers spacious well planned living accommodation, ideal for owner occupation, buy to let or HMO.

LOT 9

**Lichfield Court
Walsall**

26th September 12:30pm



●Guide Price £55,000 PLUS

Situated on the edge of Walsall Town Centre, this purpose built ground floor flat would make an ideal purchase as a buy to let or for owner occupation. Easy access to the town centre and public transport links, the property benefits from uPVC double glazing.

LOT 10

**Ida Road
Walsall**

28th September 11:30am, 3rd October 4:30pm



●Guide Price £70,000 PLUS

Situated adjacent to Walsall Manor Hospital, this freehold mid terraced property would make an ideal buy to let. Offering some double glazing and full gas fired central heating the property is conveniently located.

LOT 11

**Birmingham Road
Aldridge**

25th September 3pm, 2nd October 3pm



●Guide Price £230,000 PLUS

Situated in a prime residential area of Aldridge, this traditionally styled semi detached property is set on a larger than average width plot and lends itself to extensions subject to planning consent. In need of modernisation and improvement, the property offers great potential and would be a worthwhile project.

LOT 15

**Mulberry Road
Bloxwich**

27th September 3:30pm, 3rd October 10:30am



●Guide Price £75,000 PLUS

This three bedroom semi detached property would make an ideal purchase for an investor. The property is situated in a popular residential area a short walk from Bloxwich train station.

LOT 20

**Forest Lane
Walsall**

27th September 4pm, 3rd October 11am



●Guide Price £75,000 PLUS

Situated just off Bloxwich Road, this traditionally styled gas centrally heated and double glazed, semi detached property offers great potential. Conveniently located the property offers off street parking and spacious well planned accommodation.

LOT 22

**Mansion Crescent
Smethwick**

Saturday 22nd 12pm Saturday 29th 12pm



●Guide Price £82,000 PLUS

Situated in a popular residential area this three bedroom semi detached property offers great transport links into Smethwick and West Bromwich as well as easy access to the M5. The property is in need of modernisation and would ideally be suited to both home owners as well as investors. (●●Cash Purchasers Only●●)

LOT 23

**Edinburgh Road
Walsall**

25th September at 3.45pm, 2nd October at 3.45pm.



●Guide Price £300,000 PLUS

An already excellent sized three-bedroom detached property which lends itself to further expansion subject to the necessary planning situated on the popular, much noted Brookhouse estate in South Walsall just off the main A34 Birmingham Road which offers ease of access into Walsall and neighbouring centres. There is also transport services running regularly along Birmingham Road into Birmingham City Centre and beyond. There are a number of schools both primary and secondary available close at hand including Park Hall Infants and Junior School and secondary education available at Queen Mary's Grammar School for both boys and girls.

LOT 24

**Knights Hill
Aldridge**

Tuesday 25th September at 5pm



●Guide Price £400,000 PLUS

This magnificent traditional detached house is set on a spectacular plot of just over 3/4 of an acre (Approximately) enjoying scintillating panoramic countryside views. Representing an amazing opportunity to restore this imposing property and bring it back to its former glory! Enviably positioned on the prestigious and well regarded road of Knights Hill this unique property is within easy reach of the extensive shopping facilities available in Aldridge Village with a range of excellent local schools nearby. Local road connections also give you easy access to Little Aston and Streety whilst regular bus links are available close by to Walsall, Sutton Coldfield and Birmingham.

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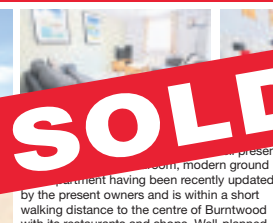
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Website: www.monopolybuysellrent.co.uk*EPC's and Floor Plans are subject to an extra charge**Property of the Week £120,000****SOLD**

Presented as a modern ground floor apartment having been recently updated by the present owners and is within a short walking distance to the centre of Burntwood with its restaurants and shops. Well-planned accommodation with two bedrooms, spacious living room, secure entrance, allocated and visitor parking and nestled in a quiet cul de sac. This property has been updated to a high standard and is ideal to move into straightaway or to have as a rental opportunity.

Practical and durable the clue's in the name

By Ian Donaldson

When it's a car name you have probably never have heard of – and certainly can't spell – you need to get yourself noticed.

How about a warranty that stretches over seven years and 150,000 miles? Like to learn something about the vehicle that covers even its radio against failure until 2025? Thought so.

Well, it's called a SsangYong Musso, it's made in South Korea and it's available for less than £20,000 to a business user who will put this no nonsense pick-up truck to work.

But back to names. Musso is Korean for rhino, which tells you what its maker wants us to think of this newcomer; tough enough to ford rivers and laugh at roads rutted deeply enough to give an army jeep pause for thought.

And like a rhino it's a rare sight.

This year a new business plan that hacks back at unprofitable sales in areas like daily rental and Motability will see still fewer new SsangYongs hit the road, but hopefully making solid money in the process.

To do that they'll need some vehicles we might want to buy. One arrived last year in the imposing shape of the SsangYong Rexton, an SUV that comes very well equipped for the price.

Now we have the Musso, using the Rexton's 2.2



The cabin is notably hushed place

litre diesel engine, tough chassis and drivetrain but adding a big load bay that turns SUV into pick-up with the ability to carry more than a tonne of payload – with happy financial consequences to a person who buys one for business.

The four-door cabin has rear seats amply roomy enough for a couple of burly men or three people who chomp fewer chips when they clock off for the day.

Without the need to pop VAT on the bill a new Musso can be yours for £19,995. Like dearer versions (they stretch to £28,495 for a thoroughly well equipped limited launch edition Rhino version) it will tow a 3.5 tonne trailer if you add £1,250 worth of automatic transmission in place of the standard fit six-speed manual, which manages 3.2 tonnes.

Talking of Rhino, the newcomer's different grades come with the mandatory-for-a-pick-up roll call of butchness, with Rebel and Saracen above the plain Jane EX entry level vehicle.

Even the EX comes with good specification including 17ins alloy wheels, DAB audio and Bluetooth, electric windows, remote central locking (including the tailgate), air conditioning, auto wipers and lights and a full sized spare wheel.

Pick any new Musso and you'll have a machine that hides its utilitarian purpose rather well before a bad patch of road presents itself. Until then, the cabin is notably hushed place to spend your working day and looking and feeling smarter than you might expect from a pick-up workhorse.

Performance is good enough for you not to notice (121mph top speed for the manual, 115mph for auto but no quoted acceleration figures) and the ride is a bit jiggly, but acceptable, on better road surfaces.

The rear suspension struggles more on rougher roads, being tamed a bit with 700kgs of concrete blocks in the load bay but never settling confidently. Already SsangYong is looking at changing the rear springs to provide a more settled ride.

The Musso recorded 35.8mpg (32.9mpg auto) in the official tests; a mixed test route saw 31.2mpg on the trip computer.

Exhaust CO2 figures of 211g/km (226g/km auto) would mean expensive road tax if the Musso was a car – but its light commercial vehicle status brings a flat rate of £230 a year.



It's a machine that hides its utilitarian purpose rather well

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The Power to Surprise

Facelift and update for Hyundai's i20

By Tristan Shale-Hester

The i20 is Hyundai's combatant in the viciously competitive B-segment, where manufacturers battle it out with superminis that sell in huge numbers.

It's been a decade since Hyundai launched the underwhelming first-generation i20 into the market and four years since the second-generation model came along to render it obsolete.

Now, the South Korean brand has given the i20 a facelift in the hope of driving more sales. The most obvious change to the i20 is its exterior styling. At the front of the car, the bumper has been updated and a new cascading grille has been added.

The back bumper has also been changed, while the rear lights have been re-designed with a more dynamic aesthetic.

Also notable is the new range of Hyundai SmartSense driver assistance features, such as lane departure warning, lane-keeping assist, autonomous emergency braking, driver attention alert and high beam assist.

The i20 is available with a choice of two petrol engines. The first is a 1.2-litre unit, which can either produce 74bhp or 83bhp. Both versions of this engine come with a five-speed manual gearbox.

The second choice of engine is a 1.0-litre T-GDI. The 98bhp version is available with a five-speed manual or seven-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission. On the other hand, the 118bhp option comes with a six-speed manual gearbox.

Our test car was fitted with the 98bhp version of the 1.0-litre turbocharged engine and the seven-speed dual-clutch transmission. While the engine had perfectly adequate punch for a supermini such as the



A highlight is the seven-inch touchscreen

i20, the automatic gearbox really let the car down a little as it struggled to keep up and didn't change up until around 6,250rpm at full throttle.

There's not too much wrong with the way the i20 drives. One area that could do with improvement is the steering, which – as with many other Hyundai models – is overly light.

In contrast, one area the i20 wins points on is its ride comfort. The car absorbs bumps impressively in the road at any speed, which contributes to a smooth driving experience. This makes a refreshing change from all the models out there with unnecessarily harsh suspension.

Despite the weightless steering, the i20 doesn't seem to have any problem coping in the corners. The car holds the road well and feels fairly refined, even at higher speeds.

There's no getting away from the fact that the new i20 doesn't look much different from the pre-facelift model. The most noticeable updates are the new rear lights, which help give the car a more dynamic look.

In terms of colour, there are three new



At the front of the car, the bumper has been updated and a new cascading grille has been added

paints available on the facelifted i20 – Tomato Red, Champion Blue and Clean Slate. They sit alongside the already existing shades of Passion Red, Sleek Silver, Stardust Grey, Polar White and Phantom Black.

The build quality of the i20 isn't top notch. Despite being quite a high specification example, our test car had a lot of scratchy plastics throughout the cabin and featured some unattractive trim pieces that had come straight out of the comparatively budget i10.

That said, everything functions perfectly well. A highlight is the seven-inch touchscreen

infotainment system, which is very intuitive and user friendly, and adds a touch of class to the interior. Something the i20's interior really has going for it is space. Not only is there ample legroom and headroom in both the front and back seats, but the car also has a 301-litre boot with a removable floor.

It almost goes without saying that price is the category where a Hyundai should dominate the field, but the i20 is a bit of a mixed picture.

The basic S Connect model costs £13,955, which buys you air conditioning, a seven-inch touchscreen infotainment system and DAB

radio. Paying £15,495 for the SE model adds front fog lights, an extra pair of audio speakers and the full range of Hyundai SmartSense driver assistance features.

The Premium Nav specification starts at £16,245 and includes 16-inch alloy wheels, climate control and satellite navigation. Our test car was at the top end of this trim level, costing £18,945.

Finally, the top-spec Premium SE Nav trim level starts at £17,295 and comes with chrome exterior door handles, a sunroof and a grey dedicated radiator grille.

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9 Local Information

Public Notices

JOHN ROBERT HEMINGSLEY (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Flat 19 Mattersley Court, Creswell Crescent, Walsall WS3 2US, who died on 14/04/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 29/11/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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Walsall Council, Planning, Engineering and Transportation

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The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning, Engineering and Transportation, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Deadline for comments on or before: 4th October 2018

APP NO: 18/1122 BY: Mrs Natasha Mann FOR: ADHESIVE NON-ILLUMINATED GRAPHICS ON FRONT GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS. AT: STEPS TO WORK, CHALLENGE BUILDING, HATHERTON ROAD, WALSALL, WS1 1XS

APP NO: 18/1126 BY: Danielle Hunt FOR: LISTED BUILDING CONSENT: SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, LOFT CONVERSION AND INTERNAL RECONFIGURATION TO CREATE A RETAIL UNIT WITH 2 X NEW FLATS AT: 61, GEORGE STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1RS

APP NO: 18/1185 BY: Mrs Laura Pountain FOR: TWO STOREY FRONT, SIDE AND REAR EXTENSIONS, INCORPORATING NEW ROOF AND ACCOMMODATION IN LOFT PLUS SINGLE STOREY SWIMMING POOL BUILDING IN REAR GARDEN AT: 2, STAFFORD CLOSE, BLOXWICH, WS3 3NW

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Out on the water and still time to smile for the camera



Members of Wolverhampton Canoe Club ready for one of their weekly sessions

Pictures Alan Fogarasy



Hobby or competition, it is ideal for all ages



Instructor Marcin Kruczynski with his daughter Kornelia

Hidden gem provides an oar-some activity

IF you dream of relaxing strolls, connecting with nature or simply finding a new hobby to keep you active, the answer could be hiding right before your eyes.

Wolverhampton Canoe Club, in Oxley Moor Road, may have been founded back in 1956, but it remains one of the city's hidden gems.

With direct access to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal, the friendly group welcomes people who want to take to the water for a whole host of reasons.

Whether you fancy taking a gentle paddle to relax and connect with nature, or you want to compete against others on courses designed to test – everyone is catered for.

The club is run by volunteers who are led by chairwoman Sharon Tarbuck, whose father was one of the club's founder members.

Friendly

And she believes the organisation provides the perfect environment for anyone looking to take up a new hobby.

"Wolverhampton Canoe Club is a family friendly club that is open to absolutely everyone," Sharon said.

"The Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal is beautiful and it's so relaxing when you are out there having a casual paddle, there is no hustle or bustle.

"Canoeing can be very therapeutic. It allows you to connect with wildlife and also keeps you fit. But we also have members who want to progress and who compete in races and slaloms.

"Whatever you want to do you can do it, everything is at your own pace but we are an encompassing club and there will be plenty of people happy to help."

While some people may be anxious about stepping into a canoe and onto the water, she says it doesn't take long to pick up the skills you need.

"Some people pick it up very quickly, others take a while," she said. "But we can go through it in baby steps.

"We run five-week courses and the first session is as simple as learning to sit in the boat. We then introduce you to strokes and other basic things.

"Our youngest member is seven-years-old, our old-

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

"For a lot of members, canoeing is about getting out there and exploring at a nice pace of life. Everyone can progress at their own rate."

est is 78-years-old and we recently had someone join us who is registered blind.

"For a lot of members, canoeing is about getting out there and exploring at a nice pace of life. Everyone can progress at their own rate."

Open for four sessions a week, the club has junior and adult teams that have tasted success in regional competitions.

Members also hold their own annual race between Ironbridge and Bridgnorth on the River Severn.

The overall aim of the club, though, is for people to relax and enjoy themselves.

"I'd definitely recommend people take up canoeing," she added.

Safe

"It's very enjoyable and Wolverhampton is a club that is run by volunteers and is family friendly with parents bringing down their children and having a great time on the water.

"It's very safe. We like people to go off in groups of three. And membership wise we are doing very well, we have new people wanting to get involved on a weekly basis.

"For safety, you can't join until you have done a course. But after that you can paddle away.

"If anyone is interested in joining give us a call because there are so many benefits to joining."

For more information on Wolverhampton Canoe Club visit <http://www.wolverhamptoncanoeclub.co.uk/> or call 07506903500.



Youngster Kai Drysdale

Young golfer misses school to land trophy

A 12-year-old golfer who hit her first ball as a three-year-old is preparing for a round of a lifetime after beat thousands of amateur golfers across England to win the Bridgestone Chase Your Dream Trophy.

Isabelle Badger, of Halesowen Golf Club, won the final of the competition, run by England Golf, at the pro-am of the Bridgestone Challenge at Luton Hoo, following a number of qualification stages.

She joined Spencer Burlingham from Essex and Martin Derrick from Sussex in the triumphant team, and they now go on to play in the pro-am of the Sky Sports British Masters at Walton Heath on October 10.

The youngster was meant to be back in the classroom at Pedmore High School, Stourbridge, for the first day of the new term, but was given special dispensation to play in the final of the Chase Your Dream Trophy – and now has a trophy to take back to the next school assembly.

The 13 handicapper, said: "It feels amazing! My own dream is to become a professional golfer one day."

'Missile' rides in as guest of Cycle Show

FORMER world champion Mark Cavendish MBE will be a guest at this year's Cycle Show at the NEC in Birmingham. The UK's national cycling showcase takes place from September 28 to 30.

The Manx Missile, who has 146 professional victories to his name including 48 Grand Tour wins and the 2011 World Championships, will appear alongside a star-studded list of riders.

The public will have a chance to quiz Cavendish in a Q&A on the final day. He will also share tales of his journey from riding BMX as a child to being at the top of his sport. He will sign autographs and pose for photos in the VIP Lounge.

Visitors can try and buy the latest 2019 products from the leading brands.

There will be two children's tracks, while the Extreme Bike Battle will provide a chance to see stunts from across the BMX and MTB world – with the UK's number one BMX ranked rider Lee Musselwhite on hand to demonstrate. For tickets, visit cycleshows.co.uk

Robinson the star as Brewwood clinch T20

BEN Robinson starred with both bat and ball as Brewwood were crowned Staffs Clubs T20 Knockout champions. He blasted 42 from 38 balls to rescue his team after they had been reduced to 38-6 batting first.

Brewwood's total of 136-8 from their 20 overs eventually proved sufficient thanks chiefly to Robinson, who finished with figures of 5-21 from his four overs.

Despite skipper Sajid Nazir hitting 28 from 24 balls to open Whittington's reply, their innings eventually petered out to finish 111-9, some 25 runs short.

James Evans had earlier taken 3-21 as Whittington assumed early control at Vicarage Road. But things then took a dramatic turn once Robinson had arrived at the crease.

Aldridge clinched the second XI title with a 10-wicket win over Wednesbury. Wednesbury were limited to 108-8. Imran Bashir then hit an unbeaten 71 from 40 balls as Aldridge chased down the target in 11.4 overs.



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Darlo made to pay for their errors

Team Dudley 4 Darlaston Tn (1874) 2
AN excellent Team Dudley made Darlaston pay for individual errors in this top-of-the-table clash.

Darlaston were chasing the game after just 90 seconds when a misplaced clearance from Ryan Jones fell at the feet of Tyrone Clarke 15 yards from goal and the striker having the simplest of tasks to slot the ball into an empty net.

Darlaston struggled to get a foothold in the game or put home keeper Josh Rogers under any pressure and Team Dudley continued to take control.

Their pressure told in the 37th minute. An Alex Pinches corner was headed clear by Mark Swann, but only to Val Lungu in acres of space on the edge of the box and his well struck shot found its way through a crowd of players giving keeper Ryan Pratt no chance.

Within 45 seconds of the second half, the interval team talk was rendered meaningless as skipper Ryan McAllister conceded a soft free-kick and his Team Dudley opposite number James Hill curled home from 20 yards. In the 61st minute Darlaston pulled a goal back, substitute Jamie Holder heading in a Noah Diallo corner. But six minutes later, from a corner, unmarked left back Nathan Jones stole in at the back post to comfortably head home.

Darlaston lost centre-back Martin Stanton to a second booking on 79 minutes, but scored the best goal of the game in the 88th minute with an overhead kick from Danny Mayne.

On Saturday Darlaston return to The Paycare Ground to take on near-neighbours Willenhall Town, kick off 3pm.

Seven up! Khalsa fizz with Vase win

Stone OA 3 Sporting Khalsa 7
KHALSA made it safely through in the FA Vase after an extraordinary ten-goal clash which included an eight-minute hat-trick for Rico Taylor and three goals in four late minutes for the home side.

Lee Chilton set up Dan Westwood for the first and the compliment was returned to make it two. Chilton's second made it three at the break.

Taylor scored the first of his treble on 64 and made it five within two minutes. Substitute Johnnie Haynes set him up for his hat-trick before Dave Meese made it seven.

Then came the late Stone comeback, as Khalsa switched off at the back, with goals from Daniel Dolman, Jack Tomlinson and Samuel Wilson.

Khalsa have been drawn at home to Winsford United in the first round proper with the tie to be played on October 13.

● Sikh Hunters' recent winning run came to an end on Saturday as they were beaten 4-0 by Droitwich Spa. Hunters are back at Long Lane on Saturday as they entertain Newport Town, kick off 3pm.

Promotion-chasers beat depleted Walsall



Try scorer Will Hennessey

Leek 26 Walsall 7

WALSALL travelled to North Staffordshire with a squad depleted through injuries.

Experienced players like Simon Weaver, Robert Angell, Matt James and Jack Crowhurst were all forced to miss out. For prop Weaver, it was just the third game he had missed in the last 100.

Unavailability also deprived the Delves Road team of the services of Mike Lockett and JB Lucak. This meant

a first start for teenager George Green and flanker Elliott Clarke.

They faced a Leek team that had already secured a convincing win in their opening league game and are expected to be pushing for promotion.

The first score came from Walsall after five minutes as teenager Will Hennessey intercepted a long pass and outpaced his pursuers over 80 metres for a try which he then converted. Prop forward Joe Taylor replied, squirming over for a try which Sam Hunt converted. Fifteen

minutes into the second half, scrum half Ollie Drew gave the hosts the lead with Sam Hunt adding the extras. Seven minutes later Nick Palmer went over.

With two minutes left, Hunt converted Kini Bulitautini's try. On Saturday Walsall host Earlsdon in the first round of the RFU Intermediate Cup.

Walsall 3rds played their first game on the new AGP pitch, winning their league match against Stafford 3rds 55-38. The second team were understrength at Lichfield and suffered a heavy defeat.

Superb run continues to final game

WALSALL'S superb end of season run continued in the Birmingham Cricket League with a crushing 148-run win over Barnet Green. A month ago, Walsall were facing a battle to avoid relegation from the premier league, but four wins from their last five games sees them 30 points above the safety line.

Bruce Thomason hit 86 in 64 balls after Alex Mellor (71) and Billy Cox (45) added 96 for the second wicket. Cox (4-28) and experienced skipper Paul Wicker (3-26) then ripped through a strong Barnet Green batting line-up. Paul Byrne took the vital wicket of Ed Pollock early on, then Cox took the next four wickets on the spin to send Barnet Green packing. Berkswell are Premier Division Champions following their 117-run win over relegated Wolverhampton.

Imran Qadir hit 47 in Streetly's innings of 135 at Attock in division two. The hosts were steered to victory by Salahudin Khan (60) and Arsalan Mahmood (45). Harborne were crowned champions.

Pelsall collapsed to 93 all out in a three-wicket defeat to Milford Hall, but finished in third place in division three, behind champions Stourbridge.

Bloxwich disappointed in the Staffs Clubs Championship, being bowled out for just 78 by Beacon, who took just 10.1 overs to reach their target for the loss of two wickets. Walsall YFP racked up 362-7 against Swindon, with 105 from Gurbhje Singh and Yasir Muhammad 89 – and then bowled out Swindon for 95.

Pics make point after long journey

Needham Market 1 Rushall Olympic 1
AFTER suffering a five-and-a-half hour journey on their first ever visit to Needham Market, Pics produced a battling performance to earn a deserved point against the division's leading scorers.

Pics took the lead when Ben Lund was brought down by Daniel Morphey and Danny Waldron stepped up to coolly sent the keeper the wrong way from the spot.

The hosts levelled before half-time when Luke Ingram was allowed to turn in the box and fire home and both sides were forced to settle for a share of the spoils in an entertaining game.

WALSALL boss Dean Kates insists Morgan Ferrier and Luke Leahy have put their on-field clash to bed.

Tempers flared during Saturday's 4-1 defeat to Doncaster – the Saddlers' first in League One this season – with team-mates having to separate Ferrier and Leahy on a bizarre afternoon at the Banks's Stadium.

But Kates is expecting them to moving on from the incident.

"It's emotions – I've had a chat with them in the changing room about it and it's done and dusted," the boss said. "It's put to bed, that issue. Ideally, that doesn't happen on a football pitch."

"I don't mind seeing it in the changing room but I'm a believer that if it happens, it goes down the plughole with the shampoo come 5pm."

Passion

"It's passion and they care. Some people don't like having someone else on their back and they are still getting to know each other, it's still early days for them as a group."

Keates, though, warned all his players that places are up for grabs for the trip to Oxford this weekend. In a lacklustre display, Ferrier had actually given the Saddlers the lead with his third goal of the season.

But John Marquis beat Liam Roberts from the spot to level and Rovers added three in the second half, through Mallik Wilks, James Coppinger and Matty Blair, to inflict a heavy first league defeat of the season on Keates' men.

And the boss admitted: "We weren't good enough. The lads are gutted the unbeaten run has come to an end. But I've told them there are positions up for grabs now."

"It's all about the reaction now, we have got ourselves off to a good start and in a decent position."



Josh Ginnelly tries to part Morgan Ferrier and Luke Leahy as they have an on-pitch altercation

Visitors clinch bonus point victory

Bloxwich 17 Rugeley 44

RUGELEY were missing a number of key players for their second game of the season, but took a 27-0 half-time lead thanks to five tries, one converted.

Bloxwich came back into the game in the second half and

they were rewarded with three tries and 17 points.

On the few occasions in the second half where Rugeley were able to wrestle the ball away from the Bloxwich pack, clinical finishes soon followed with an additional 17 points scored.

A second bonus point victory sees Rugeley hang on tightly to the top spot in the table at this early stage, with a break in league action this weekend for the National Cup with a first round challenge away at AEI Rugby in Warwickshire.

★ ★ ★
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Website: www.fosteringinwalsall.co.uk Email: fosteringinwalsall@walsall.gov.uk

We are extremely proud of our foster carers, for the care they give to our children and proud for the brighter futures they help to build. Our growing community of Walsall foster carers play a vital role in making a difference for children and young people in Walsall. We understand that foster carers need fantastic support around them so that they can give our children and young people the care they need and deserve. In addition to the competitive fees and allowances we offer, the training and development opportunities available to foster carers build valuable confidence skills and knowledge. Walsall Council is the only local authority in the West Midlands to be implementing the acclaimed Mockingbird Fostering Programme, in partnership with leading charity, Fostering Network.

The Mockingbird Programme is an established model of care which grows constellations of fostering families who support each other with social outings, training and daily fostering experiences. At the heart of each constellation is an experienced 'Hub Home Carer', who is the glue holding their fostering unit together. The model is based on the idea of an extended family and places children and young people in a fostering environment where there is a wider supportive network of fostering families around them. With around six to ten families in a Mockingbird constellation, foster carers, as well as children benefit from the supportive and nurturing environment of the constellation.



What do our foster families say?

Steven - There is no magic to it, no specific skillset, just the ability to have patience, love and understanding. Become a foster carer, you can do it too.

Irene - You can be the one who can help a child to be safe; help families who are going through a hard time. Step by step, you can make a huge difference in someone's life.

Martin - We know that our foster child started his life in a loving, warm, safe environment with us. His laugh, his first step, his first tooth - it is everything to us, it's priceless.

Bethany - Fostering is without a doubt the most rewarding job I have ever done. It has given me a real sense of satisfaction and achievement. To anyone considering fostering I would say if you can offer time and commitment then get in touch. It will probably be the best decision you ever make. It certainly was for me.

Liam, son of a fostering family - I love to help my mom with the little ones and play with them, with their toys. I enjoy showing the older children how to use a computer, as I am a bit of a geek! My experience as a foster brother has made me realise that I would like to work within this field of either foster carer, social work or support work with children.

"There was a boy.... A boy who dreamt of becoming something more"

Find out how Dan's potential is realised with a little care and guidance from his foster carers.

Visit Facebook/FosteringInWalsall or www.fosteringinwalsall.co.uk

Watch and share our new short film 'There Was A Boy'.

#ThereWasABoy #FosterForYourLA

We know there will be hard times and many challenges to overcome, but equally we know that there isn't another career out there for us that could offer the same level of fun and reward. – Maria & Luke

Why Foster with Walsall Council?

We are responsible for finding foster placements for the children in our care and we always try to place them with our own foster carers first. This means that as Walsall foster carers you are more likely to have regular placements with children in the age ranges you are skilled to work with.

We don't make a profit from caring for Walsall children and young people. We want the best possible placements available for our young people to grow and thrive so we invest in recruiting people who will make great foster carers to make this a reality.

You can expect to be paid between £200 to £600 per week for caring for children for Walsall Council, dependent on how many children you care for and your skills and expertise. Usually, you will not be paid a fee when you are not caring for a child. In addition to the fee you receive there is also an age-related allowance paid for each child in your care. We provide an additional allowance at birthdays and festival times. You can also claim fostering related mileage and expenses.

We offer a wide and varied training programme to help build your skills and confidence as foster carers. Introductory 'Induction Workshops' and more specialist courses such as Paediatric First Aid, Attachment, Sex & Sexuality and the 'Solihull Approach' course are available. Our training courses take place in venues in and around Walsall so will always be local and accessible. An online training programme is available too.

Your supervising social worker is local to you and easily reached. We have an 'out of hours' team too, so you have 24 hour support. We also work with many different professional teams to help with the children in your care such as health services and educational professionals. The introduction of Fostering Network's 'Mockingbird' programme will also offer extra support to our Walsall fostering community and you may be able to join one of our Mockingbird constellations in the near future.

We provide FREE membership to Fostering Network for all of our approved foster carers. Membership to the national leading fostering charity includes access to the charity's events and conferences, special discounts at leading retailers, access to legal advice & counselling and an ever growing community of fellow foster carers for support.

We provide a Max Card, entitling foster carers to discounts from national retailers and discounted days out and fun activities to do together.

We have a local Foster Carers Association run by experienced foster carers, who offer a 24 hour telephone helpline, buddying for new carers and advice with training portfolio workshops. They also arrange many social outings for the whole fostering family.

We value all of our foster carers and recognise this with celebration events. We have recently recognised carers long service with visits to the Mayor's Parlour and more social and celebratory events are planned during the year.

Mockingbird Fostering Programme

Mockingbird will shape the vision for our fostering service during the next 5 years and beyond. It will help to support our growing community of foster carers and the children and young people they care for. Our vision is for all fostered children and young people to experience love, care, support and stability. Programmes do not create nurturing homes, dedicated adults do. Systems don't raise children, families and communities do. Institutions don't change lives, relationships do.

Mockingbird is an innovative way of delivering foster care with the potential to improve placement stability, safety and permanence for children and young people in care, and to improve support for and retention of, foster carers.

Mockingbird centres on the idea of an extended network of family support, empowering families to support each other and overcome challenges before they escalate, and to offer children and young people a more positive, consistent, and secure experience of care.

Community, connectedness, continuity of care, consistency and relationship building are all foundational to the vision of Mockingbird.

Inspiring our children, young people and carers to love, learn and live together as part of a local community.

We will have recently established our first 2 Mockingbird fostering constellations, initially bringing together six to ten families.

A combination of newly approved foster carers and experienced foster carers will be offered the opportunity to join in with a supportive Mockingbird constellation.

If you are interested in becoming part of a Mockingbird constellation can call 0800 923 3706 for more information.

You can also find out more by visiting www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/mockingbird



I'd often thought about fostering but....

This is something we hear so often!! Lots of people are eligible to foster but some of the myths about fostering stop them from finding out more. Here's a few of the common myths explored...

I'm single, I can't foster -

You can be single, living with a partner, married or from the LGBT community.

I can't work and foster -

I can't work and foster - It depends how many hours you work, how flexible your current employer is and on the ages and needs of the children you foster. We pay allowances to cover your household costs and an additional amount for each child you foster.

Some employers, including Walsall Council, have a Family Friendly policy which may provide flexibility and support if you decide to become a foster carer.

I'm too old to foster -

There's no upper age limit for foster carers! As long as you are fit and able to care for a child then there is no official age where you are 'too old' to foster.

I don't own my home -

You can live in either rented or owned accommodation. If you are a tenant then your landlord just needs to confirm to us that they are happy for you to foster. It's important that each child you care for has their own bedroom, a space just for them.

I don't have children of my own -

You don't need to have your own children to be a good foster carer. Time spent caring for nieces, nephews or working or volunteering with children will be valuable experience too.

I'm already a foster carer for an Independent Fostering Agency -

We welcome foster carers who currently work with IFA's. We have a protocol in place that means a transfer to Walsall Council could take as little as four months. Call us for more information about this!

Join us and make a difference!

We need more inspirational foster carers to look after local children. Are you ready to find out more about becoming part of Walsall's growing fostering community? Come and meet some of Walsall's fostering team and foster carers at our sessions below. Everyone is welcome, no need to book in advance.

**Friday 28th September 2018
10.00am - 12.00pm**

Family Room, Essington Lodge,
106 Essington Road WV12 5EX

This is a relaxed, informal session where, you can come and chat about fostering with Walsall Council. Members of the fostering team will also be there to answer your questions about all things fostering.

Join us for a cuppa!

No need to book, everyone is welcome.

**Wednesday 3rd October 2018
starts at 7.00pm**

Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall,
WS1 1 UZ

Find out about fostering information session. Come along to hear how you could be part of our growing community of foster carers, helping to make brighter futures for our Walsall children.

No need to book, everyone is welcome.

Discover more about fostering with Walsall Council:

Website: www.fosteringinwalsall.co.uk Email: fosteringinwalsall@walsall.gov.uk



Walsall Council

#FosterForYourLA #ProudToBeWalsall



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